



Queen's speech keeps election options open

Defiant Thatcher rallies her party

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE prime minister yesterday rallied Conservative MPs with a confident Commons performance in which she played down policy differences between herself and Sir Geoffrey Howe and signalled her determination to fight for her own vision of the European Community.

Mrs Thatcher brushed off speculation about a possible leadership challenge which persisted at Westminster in spite of Michael Heseltine's apparent withdrawal from any contest.

With no sign of a stalking-horse challenger emerging, Tory MPs felt Mrs Thatcher had strengthened her position with a battling performance in which she outscored Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Mrs Thatcher spoke openly of her regret at Sir Geoffrey's departure after "long and distinguished service". But she was unapologetic about her language at the Rome summit that precipitated her former deputy's resignation.

She quoted Luxembourg's foreign minister as declaring it was a "useless summit" and she said: "Let no one make the mistake of believing that what emerged from the Rome European Council was a fully



ON OTHER PAGES

Two pages of reports and analysis... 8, 9
Leadership vote... page 2
Trade talks... page 12
Diary... page 16
Leading article... page 17
Letters... page 17
Photograph... page 28
Political sketch... page 28

worked-out strategy. It was just dates and deadlines."

Speaking in the debate on the Queen's speech, Mrs Thatcher underlined her determination to preserve Britain's national currency and to prevent any further erosion of the sovereignty of the British Parliament. "You don't secure the sort of Europe we want by a policy of always 'going along' with what others propose, simply for fear of being left out," she said, adding: "There could be no question of giving up our pound sterling unless and until parliament and people of the time so decided," a hint that a possible referendum is part of her thinking.

But Mrs Thatcher stuck much more to the language of her official statement on the Rome summit than the more extravagant responses to questions that had followed last week. She emphasised Britain's willingness to play a full part in European monetary arrangements and expressed her belief that the intergovernmental conference negotiations on EMU would enable the community to go forward as twelve.

Mrs Thatcher, who was greeted by cheering Tory MPs, denounced a noisy and obstreperous Commons far more effectively than Mr Kinnock, who charged her with being unfit to lead Britain in Europe.

Mr Kinnock, handicapped by constant calls from Tories to say what Labour's precise position was on the single currency, was reckoned by MPs to have failed to make the best of a situation when he should have had Mrs Thatcher against the ropes. By contrast, Labour believed "prosperity can be created by politicians and not by enterprise. The ex-communists in Eastern Europe are far more advanced in their economic thinking than the backward-looking Labour party."

He attacked Mrs Thatcher for failing to live up to her expressed desire for an "open society", but wasted some of his ammunition on Michael Heseltine, saying: "Those who snipe at the prime minister publicly but then cast around for surrogates and stalking horses deserve much the same disdain, especially

harsh penalties for drunken and dangerous driving, and a highway bill will encourage the building and operation of privately financed toll roads. Public utilities such as gas, water and electricity boards will be forced to make their holes in the road for essential works at the same time.

A trust ports bill will permit their privatisation without the need for individual bills, and a Severn bridge bill will provide for a second crossing of the river.

The second major theme will be the fight against crime. A new criminal justice bill will attempt to relate the severity of sentences more closely to the seriousness of crimes, and will reform parole arrangements so that the sentence served is closer to that passed. The courts will be given increased powers to make parents take greater responsibility for offences committed by their children.

The government's third chosen theme is that of the family, with bills to set up the child support agency to ensure that absent parents contribute to the maintenance of their offspring and to allow for the attachment of earnings to ensure payments are made.

The War Crimes Bill defeated in the Lords in June is to be reintroduced. If this is again rejected by peers, ministers intend to use Parliament Act powers to force it through.

The occasion offered an example of adroit political



Red Square scuffle: KGB security agents arresting a man who fired a hunting rifle during a protest in Moscow, page 12

Man held after Red Square shots

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

TWO shots fired from a hunting rifle in Moscow and violent scuffles in Leningrad and Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, marred an otherwise peaceful day of demonstrations across the Soviet Union to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

The occasion offered an example of adroit political management by the Soviet leader and justified his gamble in ordering the traditional parades to proceed, despite strong opposition and fear of disturbance.

In Moscow, the shots were heard across Red Square from the leaders' podium to the vanguard of a vast civilian demonstration, led by Communist party members and factory workers. Afterwards, the official Soviet news agency

Tass said a man from Leningrad, aged 39, had been arrested after shooting into the air from a sawn-off hunting rifle. Soviet video film supplied to Tass showed a man, wearing blue trousers and a white shirt, being held by about a dozen KGB men.

In a recording of the live television coverage shown in the evening, the shots were clearly audible and the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov,

and the head of the Moscow Communist Party, Yuri Prokofyev, were seen to flinch before resuming their stances and wave to the crowd. The incident created no stir and was disregarded on the official stand, to which Mr Gorbachev and members of the leadership had returned after laying flowers at Lenin's tomb.

Ukraine parade, page 12
Moscow photograph, page 12

INSIDE

Indian prime minister quits



The Indian prime minister, V P Singh, tendered his resignation last night, ending 11 turbulent months in office after he was defeated heavily in a vote of confidence in parliament in Delhi. It is not clear who will succeed him.

Mr Singh was defeated by 346 votes to 142..... Page 28
Muslims fearful, page 14

A 'just war'

Limited military action in the Gulf would be morally justified, the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, says, if all other avenues had failed and if there were prospect of achieving just objectives without damage out of all proportion..... Letters, page 18

£2.7bn for beds

More than £2.7 billion is needed to avoid hospital bed closures which meant that 82,000 patients on waiting lists were not treated this year, a survey says..... Page 7

Hirohito's fear

A transcript of a 1946 interview with Hirohito, the late emperor of Japan, discloses that he failed to oppose the military's plan to attack Pearl Harbour in 1941 because he feared civil war as the alternative..... Page 14

Sainsbury's up

J Sainsbury, Britain's top supermarket group, reported interim results much better than the highest City forecast, up 27.1 per cent to £273.4 million on sales up 15 per cent to £4.23 billion..... Page 28
Temples, page 31

Hearts go out

Heart of Midlothian were beaten 3-0 by Bologna in Italy to go out of the Uefa Cup. Aberdeen, defeated 1-0 by Legia Warsaw in Poland, went out of the Cup Winners' Cup..... Page 42

INDEX

Arts	24, 25
Births, marriages, deaths	19
Books	23
Court & social	19
Crosswords	19, 28
Life report	34
Leading articles	17
Letters	17
Obituary	18
Parliament	8, 9
Science & Technology	20, 21
Sports Letters	38
TV & Radio	27
Weather	28

Iraq frees more hostages

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, ANDREW MC EWEN AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

IRAQ increased the rate of release of hostages yesterday as James Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrived in Moscow on the most important stage of his tour of Middle Eastern and European capitals.

Whether Mr Baker's tour is a prelude to war is not yet clear, but Margaret Thatcher reinforced that view yesterday by saying that President Saddam Hussein's time was running out.

The prime minister told the Commons that the Iraqi leader did not leave Kuwait soon after forces would drive him out.

President Saddam ordered the release of 120 Westerners, including some Britons, in response to a visit by Willy Brandt, the former West German

With the US mid-term elections over, President Bush will want to know whether the

Continued on page 28, col 4

French deal, page 18
Letters, page 17

Full election report, page 15
Leading article, page 17

Full report, page 3

Arson puts disaster movies in the shade

From SAM KILEY IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD was yesterday buzzing with rumours and conspiracy theories after a fire at Universal Studios which caused millions of dollars damage to historic film sets and sent the studio's share price tumbling on Wall Street.

Michael Huston, aged 40, a security guard, was arrested later on charges of suspected arson, said the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department. "He was on duty when the fire started and after questioning he was arrested early today at the studio. We won't disclose a possible motive," Mr Huston had been in his job for a month.

The fire began in an alleyway known as Brownstone Street, which was tailor-made to be the scene of thousands of

movie muggings, drug deals and murders. The real-life crime destroyed a fifth of the studio's sets, and Times Town is pointing the finger at the Japanese, who are bitterly resented since the Sony Corporation bought Columbia Pictures for \$6.7 billion (£3.4 billion) earlier this year. MCA/Universal is the subject of an \$8 billion takeover bid by the Japanese electronics giant, Panasonic, and as news of the fire reached New York and the film studio's share price took a dive on Wall Street, some insiders said the company might be bought on the cheap in the biggest fire-sale in history.

Four hundred firemen and half a dozen helicopters fought to control the fire, which was fuelled by gale-force winds. Investigation confirmed that the

blaze was started deliberately and the famous New York Street set, where Warren Beatty's *Dick Tracy* was shot, had been destroyed along with the *Batman* set. The Courthouse Square, most recently the scene of Michael J. Fox's skateboard chase in *Back to the Future II*, survived.

The studio, called Universal City, is the biggest and oldest in Los Angeles with one of the largest filmstocks in the world, including original prints of *ET* and thrillers such as *Jaws* and *Hitchcock's Psycho*.

The conspiracy theory should, however, be taken with a pinch of salt. No potential buyer would risk losing the master copies of hundreds of films just to depress the studio's share price.

Marsh is cleared of murder attempt

By MICHAEL HORNSELL

TERRY Marsh, the former fighting fireman, was acquitted of the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his manager, by a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The jury decided that Mr Marsh, aged 32, who briefly held the world light welter-weight title in 1987 before retiring from the ring with epilepsy, was not the hooded gunman who shot Mr Warren in London's East End on 30 last year.

After the 11-day trial he left the court for a celebration and reunion with his family in Basildon, Essex, saying the verdict was "marvellous".

In the senate elections, Jesse Helms comfortably beat Harry Gant, his black Democratic challenger, after a campaign in North Carolina which developed ugly racial overtones. The one Senate seat to change hands was in Minnesota, where Rudy Boschwitz, the Republican incumbent, fell foul of the country's anti-Washington mood. The Republicans failed to wrest from the Democrats the Hawaii senate seat, the best of several which they had targeted earlier this year.

The results mean the Democrats hold 56 of the 100 Senate seats, and nearly 270 of the 435 House seats, edging closer to the two-thirds majorities that they need in both Houses to override presidential vetoes.

Democrats were buoyant yesterday. Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic national committee, said the elections were "a referendum on the leadership of George Bush, and he failed."

California voters rejected by a big margin the sweeping environmental package known as the Big Green.

Continued on page 28, col 4

Vote is linked to poll tax register

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who refuse to register for the poll tax may lose their right to vote under guidelines issued by the Home Office.

A circular to electoral registration officers says that the names of people who fail to return voter registration forms should be removed from the electoral roll if their name does not appear on the poll tax register.

By linking the franchise to the community charge, the practice of allowing up to three years grace to those who fail to return registration forms should be removed from the electoral roll if their name does not appear on the poll tax register.

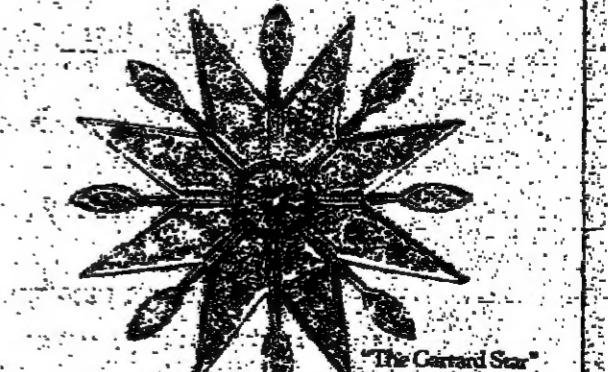
The circular also recommends the ending of the practice of allowing up to three years grace to those who fail to return registration forms. Up to now names have been carried forward from year to year, even if no payment of the poll tax.

Twelve months ago electors

Continued on page 28, col 5

Exhibition

Garrard Celebrates The Diamond



Dazzling Diamonds, Historic Jewels and Rare Stones

Wed 7th November - Sat 1st December 1990

Open Daily 9.30 - 5.30pm Sat 9.30 - 1.00pm

Feast your eyes on some of the world's most beautiful diamond jewels. The exhibition features a magnificent loan collection as well as the internationally renowned De Beers "New Cuts" on show for the first time in this country. A skilled diamond cutter demonstrates his craft throughout the first week and thereafter on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

To mark this important event Garrard has designed and created "THE GARRARD STAR" a diamond brooch set in 18 ct gold that can be adapted to be worn in an unusual variety of ways. Priced from £2,300.

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Tory MPs worried but against a challenge

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

OPINION among Conservative MPs appears to have hardened against the idea of challenging the prime minister this month.

They seem convinced of at least one thing: that Michael Heseltine had badly damaged his short-term leadership prospects by his reaction to Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation. Even some of those who have seen Mr Macmillan as the only credible challenger feel the rebuke he suffered from his constituency association over his thinly veiled attack on the prime minister has scuppered his hopes for the time being.

A survey by *The Times* of Tory backbenchers failed yesterday to discover the stalking-horse that gossip suggests is waiting in the wings. Only one backbencher claimed to know the identity of a mystery pretender, although others floated names of likely challengers.

Backbenchers, without exception, were deeply concerned about the state of the party. Many are unhappy

about the prime minister's leadership and some say that if there were a painless way of removing her, the Tories would fight the next election under a new leader. Older MPs were hankering for the days when party grandees quietly told leaders that their time was up. The majority seem to believe that any attempt to replace Mrs Thatcher would fail and the fallout from any serious contest would further damage their chances of re-election.

A handful of approaches have been made to the friends of Sir Geoffrey urging him to stand. Sir Geoffrey has given every indication that he will not do so. Mr Heseltine has also ruled himself out, although there were still those yesterday who said they would attempt to persuade him that if he did not run this year his chance might be gone forever.

His supporters cling to the hope that more bad news for Mrs Thatcher from the by-elections could sway him. One of the harshest on-the-



Traveller's return: Mr Heseltine arriving back in the country from the Middle East yesterday

record comments came yesterday from Gerald Howarth, MP for Cannock, who said: "Tanzan has ruled himself out, but we cannot be sure what the apex will do."

MPs gave varying reasons why a contest at this time was inappropriate. Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury, felt that the closeness of key decisions on the Gulf militated against a challenge.

There is also still a substantial group of loyalists who regard

Mrs Thatcher's second and experience as an asset.

Many MPs were getting warnings from their constituencies of Mrs Thatcher's deep unpopularity. The response had been either to reassure the faithful that all would be well, or to tell them that the alternative of a bloody leadership contest was worse.

Several backbenchers hope that Mrs Thatcher will go quietly before the election. A minister said: "My association

tells me we cannot win with her. If she tries to fight a Union Jack election on Europe the party will not go along with it. I will say in my election address that I favour a single currency."

He and another former minister saw a role for "the men in grey suits" if May's local elections went badly.

Another backbencher said: "My association wants her out. I want her out. But I just do not see any scenario for

removing her." Another former minister said: "I think we have a chance with someone else, but I suspect we will go over the cliff with her."

Meanwhile, Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, yesterday denied that a bad result in the Bradford North by-election would increase jitters among backbenchers. He said: "I think a leadership election unnecessary and unwanted."

He said Mr Heseltine's letter was unwise and ill-advised.

Low turnout as Irish vote for a new president

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN VIRGINIA, CO CAVAN

AN EXTREMELY close result was being predicted in the Irish presidential race as voters went to the polls yesterday at the end of a particularly acrimonious and hard-fought election campaign.

The two leading candidates, Brian Lenihan, of Fianna Fail, and Mary Robinson, the independent, were shown by eve-of-election surveys to be neck-and-neck on 43 per cent.

Austin Currie, of Fine Gael,

was trailing at 14 per cent.

Mr Lenihan's chances will depend on whether he can poll significantly more first preference votes under the proportional representation system than Mrs Robinson. If, as expected, neither makes the quota for an outright victory on the first count by attracting 51 per cent or more of first preference votes, Mrs Robinson

is expected to gain ground in the second count, when Mr Currie's second preferences will be distributed.

Reports from around the country suggested that the turn-out was about 60 per cent, significantly lower than in general elections. Early voting was said to be sluggish in many parts of the country. With counting beginning this morning the result is not expected before tomorrow, although the trend should start to emerge by this lunch time.

Poll ratings over the past three weeks have been subjected to unprecedented swings, skewed by the "Dublinite" affair. In Vir-

ginia, however, as in many traditional and conservative-minded rural communities in Ireland, "Dublinite", which led to the resignation of Mr Lenihan as deputy prime minister, has made only a marginal impact on voting patterns.

Virginia is an attractive and prosperous village on the shores of Lough Ramor, a noted fishing lake. It is part of the Cavan-Monaghan constituency that returned three Fianna Fail deputies, including two cabinet ministers and two for Fine Gael at the last election. Local pundits discussing the election over a pint at lunchtime in one of the village's 10 bars, agreed that Fianna Fail voters would stick to their man, in spite of allegations that he lied during the campaign.

As one put it: "The Fianna Fail candidate would have to be selling condoms out of the back of his car to change people's minds about him." It is a view underpinned by what seems to be an accepted fact in Irish politics — that people expect their leaders to behave in an unscrupulous manner, but they would prefer them not to get caught doing it.

In this part of the country voters are loyal to their party and its leaders. The division between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, roughly 60-40 in favour of the former, makes for little support for Mrs Robinson, backed by the Irish Labour party and the Marxist Workers party.

Jaguar workers fear job changes

By CRAIG SETON

SUSPICION over radical changes in working practices appears to be at the heart of discontent among Jaguar car workers who voted yesterday on the company's pay and conditions offer that would increase wages by 12.5 per cent in the first year and by 7 per cent, or the rate of inflation, in the second.

Doubts about demands for more versatile working to increase production were apparent amid general satisfaction over the pay element of the deal, among Jaguar workers at the Browns Lane assembly plant in Coventry, but few of those prepared to comment predicted that the offer would be rejected.

The result of voting by Jaguar's 9,000 hourly paid workers at three plants in the West Midlands is expected today or tomorrow. The above-inflation offer for the first year would raise average weekly pay for production workers from £230 to £258 but 4 per cent would be conditional on the implementation of new work practices by February.

Flexible working is intended to end the system where some production workers do nothing after completing a fixed quota of work. Under the deal they would be expected to work until the end of their shift. Flexible break periods would be introduced and demarcation lines based on skills would end.

Management has explained the ramifications of the proposed changes in work practices to the workforce as the company strives to treble production to 150,000 cars a

Pilots form European super union

British airline pilots will today lead the formation of the first European super union to represent workers across the borders of the common market (Kevin Fenton writes).

Although the emphasis of the European Community's progress towards the 1992 single market has been directed at business, pilots are the first employee group to recognise that their interests will also have to be defended across all 12 nations. Leaders of airline unions from each of the countries will decide the legal structure of the new organization, the Euro Cockpit Association, which will have 20,000 members.

The 3,000-member British Airline Pilots' Association is the biggest single force in the organization. Roger Mulberrie, Bapa chairman, will head the new group until elections are held.

Policeman fined

A police sergeant who was in charge of the control room at Taunton on April 9 and failed to react to a telephone call from a boy, aged six, whose mother had been shot was fined £500 and remanded yesterday after being found guilty of misconduct. The boy and the policeman have not been named.

Research plea on ritual abuse

By PETER VICTOR

A NATIONAL research programme to look into systemic child abuse was called for by Nottinghamshire County Council yesterday. It has also asked the government to offer guidance in the wake of controversy and conflict between police and social workers over the Bromley case.

The county's social services committee also called for the Social Services Inspectorate and the Inspectorate of Constabulary to investigate up to 15 further cases, involving 27 children associated with the case and now in care who have also alleged that they were ritually abused.

The committee further proposed a review of practices and procedures between police and social workers dealing with child abuse cases.

The move, recommended by David White, the county's social services director, is at odds with the position of Dan Crompton, chief constable of Nottinghamshire, who maintains that there is no evidence to support claims of ritualistic abuse. It will be welcomed, however, by members of Team 4, the social workers who dealt with the Bromley case, as it bears out claims by the team of more victims.

Better NHS Dental Services

There are changes in the way NHS dental care services are run. The changes are designed to give you an even better service.

What are the changes for?

They are designed to put more emphasis on the prevention of dental decay as well as dental treatment.

They do not reduce in any way the average earnings of dentists from the NHS. They are not designed to save the taxpayer money — they will cost more than the old system.

They have been agreed with the dentists' national representatives.

What services can you expect?

* You can now get preventive care under the NHS.

* You do not have to pay more for NHS treatment.

* If you don't pay for dental treatment now you will not have to pay under the new arrangements.

* Your dentist will give you a written treatment plan which sets out different options and their costs before starting your treatment.

* Your dentist will tell you which options are private and which NHS.

* You are guaranteed prompt NHS emergency treatment.

* If a filling or crown has to be redone within a year, you may be able to get a replacement free of charge.



Choosing your dentist.

If you already have a dentist you should ask to sign on with him or her on your next visit.

If you don't have a dentist or would like to find a new one, you can get information about local dentists from the Family Health Services Authority for your area.

To help you make your choice, many dentists already provide leaflets setting out the services they offer and by next year all will do so.

Finding out more.

If you want to find out more about the changes, fill in the coupon below.

Please send me the leaflet "A Change in Dental Care for You."	
(USE BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)	
Name _____	
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)	
Address _____	
County _____ Postcode _____	
Send coupon to: Dental Changes, FREEPOST 4335, Dept. BT11, Bristol BS1 3YX or phone FREE anytime 0800 900 995.	

Murder charges

Newcastle upon Tyne police last night charged two men with the murder of John Welch, aged 46, a businessman from Lincoln, who died of head injuries in a hotel in 1980. Jonathon Wheldon, aged 43, of South Wales, and Anthony Loveridge, aged 52, of Gloucester, are expected to appear in court today.

Nuclear orders

British Nuclear Fuels' new Thorp reprocessing plant at Sellafield has won orders worth £600 million before it even starts operations, the company announced yesterday. It denied claims that it was forced into releasing the details after environmental groups claimed that Thorp would make huge losses.

Pit closure

The Bettws pit, at Ammanford, in Dyfed, south Wales, is to close by next March with the loss of 200 jobs. British Coal blamed severe geological difficulties.

Reporting The Times yesterday, Sir Alan Cribbs, chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, said: "The Thorp site is a major environmental risk. It is a complex facility with many potential hazards. The commission has concerns about the safety of the site and the potential impact of any accident. We believe that the commission should be involved in the decision-making process regarding the site's future." The commission has called for a full environmental impact assessment to be carried out before any final decision is made.

On the other hand, the commission has also called for the Thorp site to be closed down as soon as possible to protect the environment.

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not as
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resident

IN VIKINGA, CO. CAVAN
however, as in a
traditional rural community
in Ireland, "Dublinisation" is
seen as the resignation of
a local deputy prime
minister, but made only a
small impact on the
village.

Vikings is an attractive
village on the River Bann,
just below the town of Monaghan.
The town has a large
population, but returned
to the cabinet minister
as a local figure. Local
people are the election
of a Member of Parliament
and others would
argue that he lied
about the election.

As one put it: "The
local candidate would have
had to leave the car to the
police because he was
not allowed to bring it in."
In this part of the country
there is a local legend that
the Vikings are the
ancestors of the Monaghan
people. The legend is
that the Vikings came
to the area and the
Monaghan people
are their descendants.

Workers
changes

Pilots for
EU/3
supera

Parliament fined

Under charges

Nuclear orders

closure

Marsh cleared of shooting former manager in ambush

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE former world boxing champion Terry Marsh was cleared of the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his manager, by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The fighting fireman from Basildon, Essex, thanked the jury from the dock before disappearing with a black leather jacket over his head, out of the judge's exit. A white transit van owned by the World Sports Federation took him to the East End for a celebration with his wife, Jacqui, and supporters.

Mr Marsh, aged 32, beamed his delight as the jury of seven men and four women returned from deliberations lasting four hours 47 minutes and the foreman announced the boxer had a "not guilty" verdict. He was released on bail by Mr Justice Fennell to appear again today to face a charge of illegally possessing ammunition.

Ann Currow, QC, for the prosecution, told the judge that the Crown would consider overnight whether it should proceed on that count, and last night there were doubts that it would. Richard Ferguson, QC, his defence counsel, told the judge the ammunition charge was not serious and he expected that whatever happened, the 10 months Mr Marsh had spent in custody would "encompass any sentence".

Mr Marsh, who denied shooting Mr Warren as he arrived to watch one of his boxing promotions at the Broadway theatre, Barking, east London, last November, will be involved in two further hearings. Next week the Companies Court will consider an action by Customs and Excise seeking compulsory liquidation of his company Terry Marsh Promotions. Then, on a date to be arranged, he will defend libel action in the High Court.

Mr Warren is suing Mr Marsh for allegedly implying

during a television interview that the manager knew the boxer was suffering from epilepsy when he persuaded him to sign a £150,000 contract to defend his world title in September 1987. The prosecution in the 11-day trial that finished yesterday had claimed that the rumours damaged and costs that Mr Marsh would incur if he lost the action were a motive for murder. It was after Mr Marsh said that he was suffering from epilepsy, a claim he later withdrew, that he effectively retired from the ring and subsequently lost his job as a fireman.

After hearing that his son had been acquitted, John Marsh said: "Terry has spent 10 months inside for nothing. There has just been so much tension I am really delighted at the news." At the family home in Great Gregorie, Basildon, Mr Marsh's mother, Maisie, added: "It has been ten months of hell, ten months you can't celebrate. I feel like going into a convent for a month to get over it."

The prosecution had also offered evidence of a confession the boxer had allegedly made while on remand in Wormwood Scrubs. The judge said in his summing-up that the fellow prisoner who reported the confession had a string of convictions "as long as your arm".

Mr Marsh, who was the International Boxing Federation light-welterweight champion for five months during 1987, is understood to be considering suing police for wrongful arrest. Det Supt Jeff Rees, of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, who led the investigation, said: "We will be re-opening the investigation unless any new facts or new evidence come to light."

Supporters called for three cheers from the jury as Mr Marsh left the dock to return to the cells and collect his belongings. As he departed, he held up his open hands, smiled and mouthed the word: "Marvellous."

He was embraced by his solicitor, Henri Brandman, who later read a statement outside the court where hundreds of well-wishers had gathered. Mr Brandman said:

"You will no doubt understand that having been through ten months of hell, Terry wishes in the first instance to be remitted with

value-added tax bill, as well as a £90,000 mortgage when police arrested him on January 17 after the Warren shooting.

The prosecution at the Central Criminal Court had claimed it was Mr Marsh's financial difficulties, compounded by a libel action brought by his manager, which drove him to lie in wait for Mr Warren on a murky evening in east London last November 30.

The jury, however, did not accept that the former Royal Marine was the gunman who fired a 9mm bullet from a Luger semi-automatic into Mr Warren's chest as he arrived in his chauffeur-driven Bentley for a boxing promotion at the Broadway theatre, Barking, last November 30.

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We've got everyone talking

Travel agents accused of poor complaints record

From HARVEY ELLIOTT IN BUDAPEST

TRAVEL agents were accused last night of failing to deal properly with the complaints of 400,000 dissatisfied holiday-makers last year, leaving them frustrated and angry.

Eight per cent of the almost 10 million Britons who took a package holiday last summer were dissatisfied, according to a Mori survey. Although the figure has fallen from the 12 per cent of the previous summer, it still represents about 650,000 people, of whom a third said that their holidays had been ruined.

About 450,000 made a formal complaint and only

50,000—or 16 per cent—were satisfied with the response from their travel agent or tour operator.

The remaining 400,000 were dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint and the way it was handled.

Bob Worcester, chairman of Mori, told the convention of the Association of British Travel Agents in Budapest: "There is a lot of work to be done in trying to find a way of improving the way in which their complaints are handled. You are not even hearing from a lot of your dissatisfied customers, who will probably

vote with their feet and not come back."

His findings shocked many of the delegates. Tour operators immediately began blaming travel agents, who in turn blamed the tour operators.

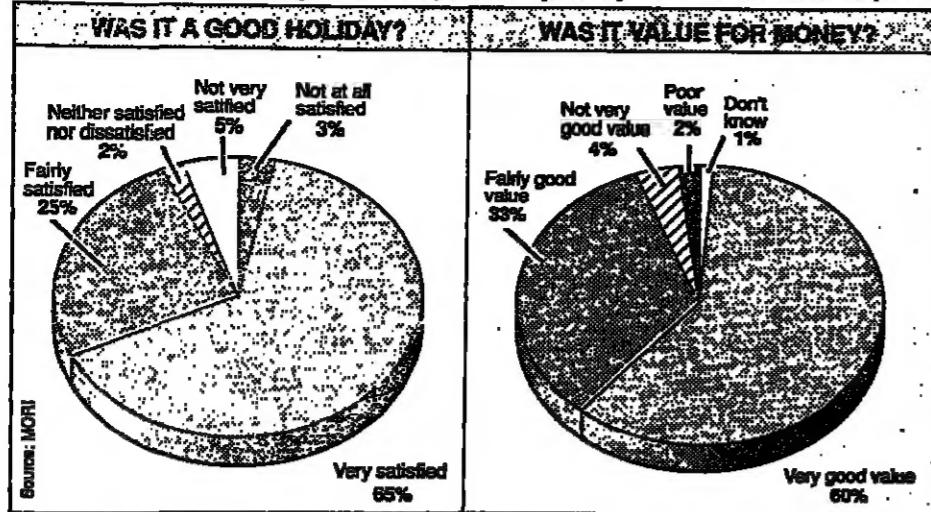
Harry Goodman, chairman of Britain's second biggest holiday group, ILG, said that travel agents often sold the wrong holiday to the wrong client and that large multiple travel agencies were the worst offenders. "The main danger is with inexperienced young staff selling people what is often their most important

purchase of the year," he said.

Ian Smith, managing director of Luan Poly, blamed the tour operators, however, for asking agents to sell poor quality holidays. He warned them that he would take their brochures from the shelves if standards dropped. "There is no point in our spending millions on marketing to get customers through the door and then treating them so badly that they don't come back again," he said.

The travel agents' association is considering employing an industry-wide ombudsman to deal with dissatisfied complainants. A detailed survey has been carried out into the proposal and an announcement about who will fill the role is expected early in the new year. The association's officials want to avoid excessive bureaucracy and are refining plans to ensure that complaints can be dealt with within a month.

The Mori survey, which was conducted in August and September, among nearly 1,000 people from throughout the country, showed that 65 per cent of package holiday-makers last year were very satisfied, 25 per cent fairly satisfied, 5 per cent not very satisfied and 3 per cent not at all satisfied with the holidays they had bought.



Workers preparing to repair a grass path eroded by 750,000 pairs of feet a year at Stonehenge. Grass-cow matting and sports-pitch turf will be laid down

Legal aid for all urged in libel suits

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A REFORM of the legal aid scheme so that it covers libel and becomes available to everyone, regardless of his or her means, is called for today by Peter Carter-Ruck, the leading libel lawyer.

The absence of legal aid for defamation actions is a palpable injustice, providing "inequality of rights under the law between those who have the means to litigate and those who have not", he says.

Mr Carter-Ruck, who urges the reform in his new book *Memoirs of a Libel Lawyer*, published today, says that the failure to extend legal aid to libel litigants in the face of the maximum recommendations of some half dozen distinguished committees since 1967.

The government, he says, was reluctant to introduce the reform through a fear that it would lead to a proliferation of actions. That fear, however, was unfounded, because legal aid committees scrutinised every application and in 90 per cent of cases the final decision in the case shows it was justified.

He says everyone should qualify but pay a contribution towards costs according to his or her means.

Woman appointed to run airline

By OUR AIR CORRESPONDENT

CALEDONIAN Airways has appointed a new managing director and the first woman to run an airline in Britain.

Clare Hollingsworth, aged 30, joined British Airways as a trainee aged 18. She returned from maternity leave after the birth of her son to be told that she was to become responsible for running Caledonian Airways, the Gatwick-based British Airways charter sub-

sidiary. The airline's staff still wear the familiar tartan uniform of the now defunct British Caledonian, one of Britain's leading charter operators.

Mrs Hollingsworth takes over next month as part of a shake-up in British Airways' senior management structure and she will be responsible for developing the airline, which last year flew more than one million package holiday makers to resorts throughout the world.

She said yesterday at the annual convention of the Association of British Travel Agents in Budapest: "I was both surprised and delighted. I was in at the beginning of Caledonian and I am determined that it will become the best charter airline in Britain."

The airline, which made a profit of more than £10 million last year, has five Tristars and three Boeing 757s but is acquiring one more Tristar and two 757s by next summer.

It is expected to lease some of the aircraft to airlines around the world and fill the others with passengers who book holidays through all the major tour operators.

Mrs Hollingsworth is married to a Marks & Spencer executive and lives in East Sussex. She joined BA in 1978 and worked in the personnel, sales and reservations sections before moving to Gatwick in 1986.

She is head of cabin services—a post which involved her being trained as a stewardess and flying when things got very busy.

Her son was born three months ago and she has only recently officially returned from maternity leave.

"She is very popular, experienced and knowledgeable and has the good of Caledonian Airways at her heart," a colleague said.

She even telephoned the office on the day her baby was born and since then has worked from home everyday until she was able to return full time to the office.

"We are all delighted by her appointment."

Beer 'far too dear in London'

By BILL FROST

BEER drinkers are paying an "arm and leg" for a pint of bitter in London, according to the latest edition of the *Good Pub Guide*, published yesterday.

A survey by the guide showed that prices in the West End could reach £1.80. "Quite often the beer drinker is quaffing his high-price pint in the dingiest of surroundings, too," said Martin Hamilton, a guide researcher.

The guide expresses concern that big brewers have sidestepped government measures allowing public houses tied to major groups to offer a "guest ale" from another brewer, and says that thousands of bars are not even planning a wider choice.

The survey, conducted before rises of about 6p, put the average price of a pint at £1.10 nationally, but £1.30 in London. The cheapest pints are in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside, where drinkers pay about 30p less than Londoners.

"Drink and food prices are artificially high in London because the brewers and the landlords ... people can afford it," Mr Hamilton said.

A Brewers' Society spokesman said: "Beer is very good value for money. After all, you could not get a glass of good wine for that price."

World's seabirds at risk off Britain

By JOHN YOUNG

A BIG proportion of the world's seabirds could be wiped out by an ecological disaster off the coasts of Britain or Ireland such as a large oil spill, according to a report published yesterday by the Nature Conservancy Council.

A three-year survey ending last March found that the three million seabirds in the Irish Sea and off the west coast of Scotland included more than half the total breeding numbers of Manx shearwater, puffin, black guillemot and gannet. The same waters also contain large populations of lesser black-backed gull, roseate tern, shag, great skua, storm petrel and razorbill.

The survey is the third in the council's Seabirds at Sea project, initiated in 1979 because of concern at the threat to marine wildlife posed by the North Sea oil industry and the rapid increase in tanker traffic.

Andy Webb, the survey leader, said yesterday that it provided the first detailed information on the internationally important seabird population that lives and

breeds off the coasts of the United Kingdom. Lack of information had constrained the NCC when it was asked to advise on the potential effects of offshore and coastal developments.

He said that the Minch, between the Scottish mainland and the Western Isles, was the most vulnerable area. In spite of a tanker route that skirted the Hebrides, many fully laden tankers still used the inner passage.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has launched a £150,000 appeal to create a nature reserve in the Arun valley in West Sussex.

The society has bought 423 acres of Pulborough Brooks, former water meadows which once supported thousands of wintering wildfowl but which have been largely dried out by drainage schemes and other agricultural improvements.

Water level controls will be built and livestock introduced to maintain short grass as feeding grounds for wintering wildfowl.

Global warming, page 16

Double Nelson

For Nelson Piquet, victory in the Japanese Grand Prix was quickly followed last Sunday by victory in the Australian Grand Prix.

In both cases Piquet was driving a Benetton Ford powered by the Ford Cosworth racing engine.

On top of that, the Sierra RS500 Cosworth won this year's British Touring Car Championship.

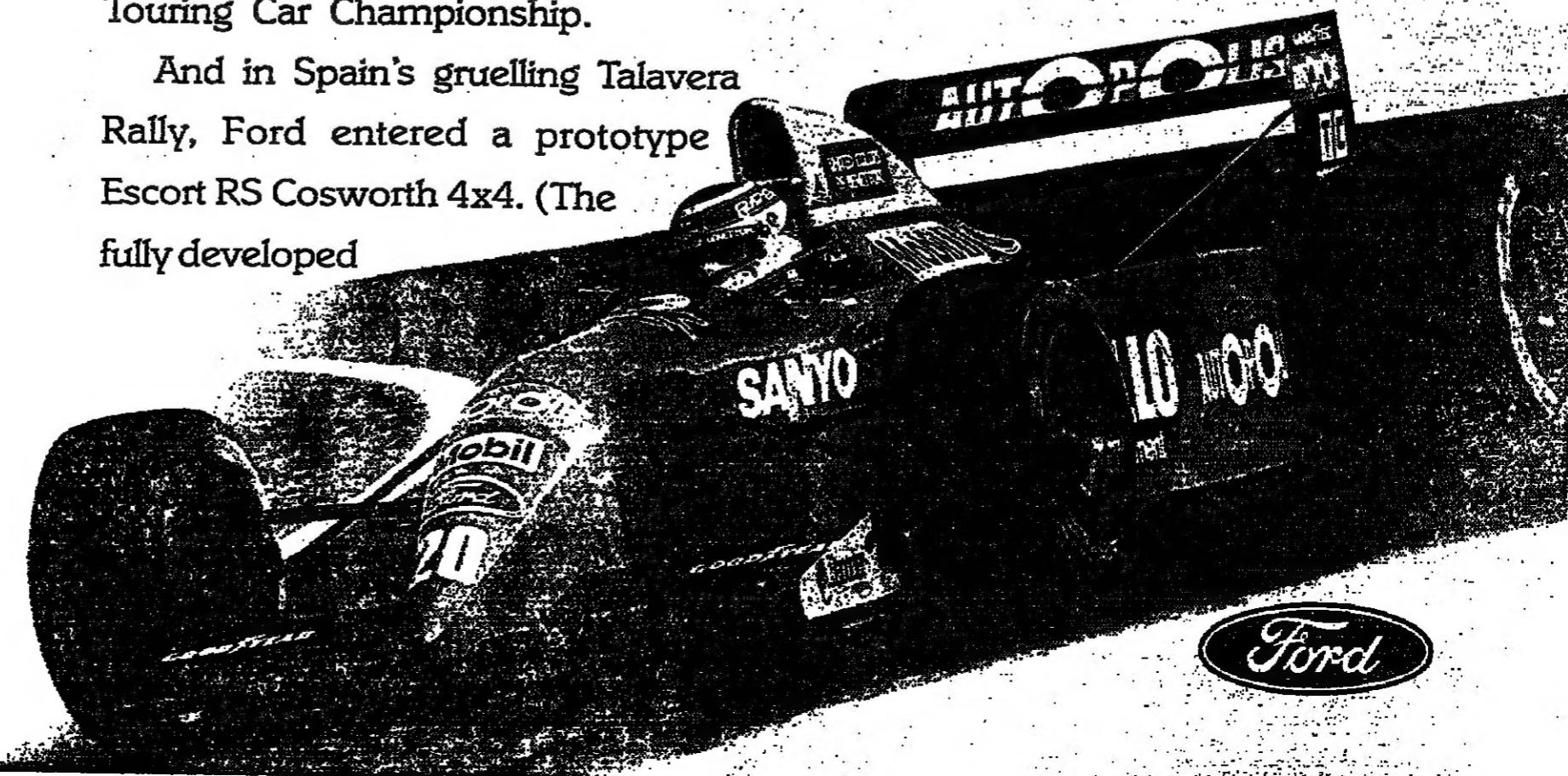
And in Spain's gruelling Talavera Rally, Ford entered a prototype Escort RS Cosworth 4x4. (The fully developed

model won't be ready until 1992.)

Remarkably, as this was its first outing, the prototype overwhelmed its rivals and took first place.

By any standards, Piquet's triumph was a justly fitting climax to a very successful season for Ford Cosworth.

A double Nelson preceded by a couple of knockout punches.



Prince calls for tax reforms to aid care of historic buildings

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales last night called on the government to introduce major tax reforms to encourage the preservation and repair of historic buildings.

Speaking at a dinner at the Natural History Museum, London, at which he was presented with the Hadrian Award, the Oscar of the heritage industry, by the American-based World Monuments Fund, the prince announced some much

more attractive tax incentives to encourage private donations," the prince said. "There have been some small improvements in this area recently, but I still feel there is a long way to go."

"In order to have a truly effective partnership between the public and private sectors, it is essential, if both are to play their parts, for governments to provide imaginative incentives in order to stimulate action and restoration."

The prince nominated St George's Hall, built between 1841 and 1874 as a concert hall and law courts, as a building in serious need of first aid. An estimated £2 million is needed to return it to its Victorian splendour. The fund is to assess what is required before announcing a donation.

The prince said: "For some time, I have been increasingly concerned about one of the greatest public buildings of the last 200 years, which sits in the very centre of one of Europe's finest cities."

He went on: "When the fund mentioned to me that it was seeking a major British project, it seemed to me to present a marvellous opportunity to do something for this great building — which has been called the finest in the world — and for Liverpool."

We should examine the way VAT was applied to building works, which now seemed to deter, rather than encourage, the maintenance and repair of listed buildings," he said.

The fund has assisted restoration projects including the Hôtel des Invalides, Paris.



Team spirit: the crew who helped to save the life of Captain Tim Lancaster, the British Airways pilot almost sucked out of his plane,

were reunited yesterday. Four of the five crew were in London to receive Men of the Year awards. They were, from left, John Heward,

the purser, with his wife Victoria. Captain Lancaster with his wife Margaret, First Officer Alastair Atchison, and, right, Simon Rog-

ers, the steward, with wife Sue. The crew hung on to Captain Lancaster's legs after the cockpit windscreens shattered.

Top accolade goes to public-sector architect

THE first public-sector architect to receive the profession's top accolade in 18 years was named yesterday as Colin Stansfeld Smith, right, the county architect for Hampshire (Charles Knevit writes).

Max Hutchinson, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, announced that Mr Stansfeld Smith, aged 58, was to receive the 1991 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. He said that the jury had made an immediate and unanimous decision.

The medal, bestowed every year since 1943, was last given to a public-sector architect in 1973 when it went to Sir Leslie Martin. Mr Stansfeld Smith said that he was stunned by the award but hoped that it reflected the architectural quality he sought to achieve and the "social cause" reflected in his department's work.

His department has re-

ceived 36 awards and commendations in the past 10 years. He said that since he had joined the council in 1973, public-sector work had been seen as largely utilitarian and had suffered a demise.

His department, however, had courageously recaptured civic pride at a time when a stigma had been attached to work by local councils.

An everyday threat to real folk

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

HANBURY, the Worcestershire village used as a model for Ambridge, home of the Archers radio family, is facing a new threat from developers only four months after a plan for a satellite town on its doorstep was dropped.

A draft local plan published by Wychavon district council in Droitwich near by would allow construction of two housing estates, which together would be larger than the existing village.

If the plan is implemented

100 new houses will be built on two sites near the centre of the village, which at present has 75 houses. The new plan also includes a proposal for a bypass similar to the one that caused controversy in the fictional village last year.

The BBC dropped the bypass story line after concern that it was too sensitive at the time that the real village was fighting off its own unwelcome development. The scheme has been put forward by Wychavon council as part

of efforts to find sites for 4,500 new houses in the area by the end of the century, as required by the Hereford and Worcester structure plan.

Bernie Smith, head of planning policy at Wychavon council, said that a number of villages had been designated for housing development and that Hanbury had not been singled out for special treatment.

Michael Thompson, leader of the Hanbury Action Group, which successfully fought off the plan for 5,000

home satellite town at neighbouring Mere Green, said the new proposals would destroy the village's character.

Archers devotees regularly visit Hanbury as part of official tours to see Mere Hall, model for the fictional Grey Gables, the church where both Phil and David Archer were married, and Mr Thompson's home which was the model for Manor Court, home of the Tregorran family.

"Just when we thought we could get back to living our lives this has come as a bolt from the blue," he said. "It seems as if Wychavon are being vindictive. They are out to get Hanbury because we defeated the satellite town."

The BBC said: "Ambridge does not exist. It is based on a number of villages in the area. Hanbury happens to be one of them." Mr Thompson and his fellow villagers hope nevertheless that the seven and a half million listeners to the long-running radio serial in Britain, will again rally to the support of Hanbury.

New town for Downs denounced

By NICHOLAS WATT

OPPONENTS of proposals to build a town on 870 acres in the mid Hampshire Downs have likened the project to a terminal cancer cell.

Clive Dixon is vice-chairman of the Denev Society which is fighting Eagle Star Properties' proposals to build 5,000 houses at Micheldever Station. He said that he could see no planning justification for it. "It's like a re-run of the Foxley Wood campaign. I question the right of anyone to overwhelm the very heart of Hampshire, an area of great natural beauty," he said.

Mr Dixon said that Eagle Star wanted its scheme to be included in the new draft Hampshire County structure plan, which proposed building 58,000 houses between 1991 and 2001.

Ian MacInnes, managing director of Eagle Star, said that the new town would provide jobs and affordable housing.

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War galley will sail Lord of Isles route

By WILLIAM CASH

A CREW of adventurous Scotsmen and Irishmen will face the perils of the medieval seafaring warrior by attempting to row a war galley from the west coast of Ireland to the Western Isles of Scotland.

The six-week voyage, which sets off next spring from Galway, involves the building of a replica vessel as used by the Lord of the Isles, the ancient kingdom chief of the Western Isles, for their trade and war forays across the Irish Sea between the 12th and 16th centuries.

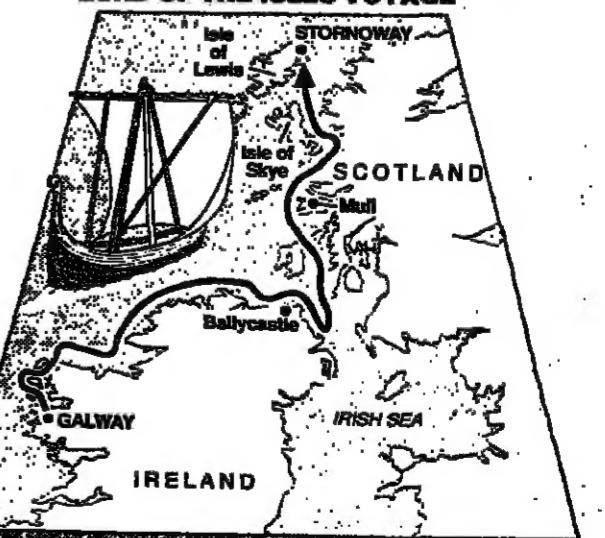
The Dawn Treader style expedition, which will cost about £90,000, has taken nearly seven years to launch as no example of the war galley survived today. The 40ft pine

vessel will boast 16 giant oars. The swan-bowed galley, resembling a Viking long boat, will be decorated on the stern and have a single mast enabling her to sail with the wind, helped by a large emblazoned square sail.

The men recruited to the historical and scientific venture, which is still seeking big a sponsor, will need to be bravely and tough. Ranald Macdonald, captain of Clannranald, and joint expedition co-ordinator, said yesterday.

The Dawn Treader style expedition, which will cost about £90,000, has taken nearly seven years to launch as no example of the war galley survived today. The 40ft pine

LORD OF THE ISLES VOYAGE



Vast comet sheds light on Earth's early days

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE largest comet discovered, 10,000 times bigger than Halley's comet, is wandering unpredictably around the solar system, an unguided missile that might one day disintegrate to produce a vast mass of debris through which the Earth will pass.

The mysterious comet Chiron, 125 miles across, could even have played that trick before. Although it is at present in a distant orbit, astronomers at Manchester university speculate that in the past it might have been in an orbit much closer to the Sun. If so, it is likely to have thrown off lumps of material that formed the Taurid stream, a procession of rubble and dust through which the Earth passes each June and November.

One of the larger pieces was almost certainly the object that collided with the Earth 64 million years ago, causing the catastrophe that eliminated the dinosaurs. The clouds of dust, though less dramatic, may have been equally important, for they might have caused the Ice Ages, by veiling the Sun, lowering the temperature, and throwing the Earth into a period of glaciation.

The two astronomers responsible for the new calculations of Chiron's orbit, Gerhard Hahn and Mark Bailey, say in this week's *Nature* magazine that a space mission to Chiron ought to be launched. "It is such an important object that if one is going to learn anything about it, it would be marvellous to land on it," Dr Bailey says.

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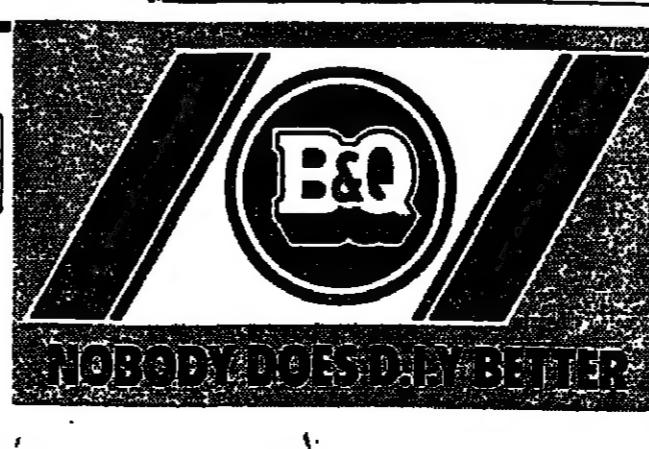
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Bed closures 'add 82,000 patients to NHS waiting lists'

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 82,000 patients on waiting lists could have been treated this year if hospitals had not had to close 3,563 beds, according to a survey to be published today.

Nearly one in three health authorities have closed or propose to close beds this year due to financial difficulties, the study from the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts says.

The association suggests that the government will have to announce at least £2.7 billion extra for the National Health Service in its autumn statement to avoid further damaging cuts next year.

By next April, 2 to 3 per cent of all acute beds, equivalent to 718,274 bed-days, will have closed, the report says. If these were occupied at an 80 per cent rate with an average seven-day length of stay, 82,088 more patients could have been treated.

The report shows that 24 per cent of health authorities had closed beds this year to reduce costs or contain potential overspending. A further 7 per cent intended to close beds before next April.

The survey of 91 health authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland shows that 60 per cent of health authorities had kept within cash limits by freezing posts, drawing on reserves, reducing services and cutting the number of staff they employed.

One in four districts had frozen recruitment, 11 per cent had cut staff numbers and one in five had reduced service provision. Some 19 per cent had transferred capital to revenue and 17 per cent had increased their creditors.

The association's *Autumn Review* suggests that health service inflation is likely to run to at least 8.6 per cent next year. Health authorities would also require an extra £500 million to fund demographic changes and medical advances.

John Appleby, the association's central policy unit manager, said: "The NHS will need at least £2.7 billion extra next year to cover these two elements."

A further £200 million could be needed to cover this year's underfunding on pay and the costs of implementing the health service reforms, Mr Appleby said. "Health authorities are going to have a new role next year and will have to cut their suits to fit their cloth. They will have to buy services up to the money they are given. If they do not get enough money hospital waiting lists will rise."

The survey shows that health authorities have run into financial trouble this year because of underfunding for pay awards and inflation, and the need to clear underlying deficits. Health authorities are under additional pressure because they have to clear all

GMC to act against incompetent doctors

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Medical Council is planning a radical disciplinary procedure aimed at exposing doctors who fail to maintain high standards. Doctors who are consistently incompetent, offhand towards their patients or unwilling to change their bad habits could face punishment.

Sir Robert Kilpatrick, the council president, said yesterday that support for the proposal was being sought within the profession. "We hope this scheme will answer most of the criticisms levelled by the public about the fitness of doctors to practise. Our

existing framework only allows us to deal with complaints about specific events involving doctors. We want to be able to deal with patterns of professional behaviour and standards of practice that take place over longer periods."

Doctors who were complained against would have their attitudes and behaviour towards patients assessed locally by experts appointed by the council. If improvements were not achieved, "recalcitrant recidivists" would face charges at public hearings of the council. The new system could be introduced in 1992.

British humour

Appeal launched for £1.5m cartoon gallery

By SIMON TART
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

HUMOUR, H.M. Bateman is credited with saying, is a serious business, and nobody takes it more seriously than his fellow cartoonists.

"Comic art is there to be mined, enjoyed, protected," Nicholas Garland said gravely yesterday. "It's not always the funniness of cartoons that appeals to us." He is one of a trio of comic artists, with John Jensen and Mel Calman, of *The Times*, who have responded to a clarion call made in 1949 by Bateman, who in "The man who..." created a cartoon series that has become a byword for apoplectic chubrubon consternation.

Bateman said: "Is it not high time that some official recognition of the worth of comic learning was made? A permanent collection of some of the best examples should be got together and housed under one roof, forming a sort of National Gallery of Humorous Art."

At the Royal Society of Arts yesterday, where Bateman made his original envoi at a lecture a few yards away from where the 18th-century caricaturist and political cartoonist, Thomas Rowlandson, lived, a £1.5 million scheme for a National Museum of Cartoon Art was launched by the Cartoon Art Trust along with an



"Backed a winner: the joys of the turf"

appeal for the money. Calman, who thought of the idea two years ago, was absent, laid untruly low by influenza. The three are on the museum's board of directors with Bateman's daughter, Diana Willis, W. Heath Robinson's son, Oliver, Ann McLellan, Pont's cousin, and Simon Heneage, a collector, as chairman.

"Most art critics in this country still place comic art some way below the salt," Mr Heneage said. There is already a preliminary design for a building in the shadow of the museum which Bateman made fun of in his narrative cartoon "The Boy Who Breathed on the Glass in the British Museum".

The new museum has a considerable collection of its own: many of the items have been donated and others bought from the proceeds of an auction a year ago of contemporary cartoonists' work, which raised £70,000.

"The trouble with cartoonists," David Thomas, editor of *Punch*, said, "is that when you get more than one of them in a room it's almost impossible to stop a fight." With three of them on the board discussing acquisitions and exhibition ideas, the proceedings could be unfunny, Jensen acknowledges. "Cartoonists never talk about jokes or what's funny."

Had he thought of a humorous illustration in homage depicting H.M. Bateman as "The Man Who Suggested a National Museum of Cartoon Art?" "No. It just wouldn't be funny."



"Ready for battle: a Bateman colonel"



Open invitation: Trista Quenzer, of the Natural History Museum, London, peers into the jaws of an allosaurus, one of the many model dinosaurs on display at an exhibition that opens next Thursday. *Dinosaurs Past and Present* contains many newly discovered fossils

Science and technology, pages 20-21

Officer in axed squad to retire

A former member of the disbanded West Midlands Police serious crime squad is to retire early on health grounds. Det Sergeant Michael Hornby, aged 48, who has diabetes, is now almost blind in one eye.

Sergeant Hornby, holder of the Queen's Police Medal, and 35 other detectives were moved to office jobs after allegations that evidence was fabricated.

Sailor rescued

A French sailor taking part in a single-handed transatlantic race was rescued by a Dutch warship as his catamaran started to sink 320 miles off Land's End yesterday. His craft was half submerged when the *Piet Heyn* took him aboard after being alerted by coastguards.

Language link

A-level language students are to practise their skills by providing written, timetable information to foreign passengers at Ipswich in a link-up between schools and industry. *Options* magazine, page 20-21

Libel victory

Jani Allan, a South African journalist, accepted undisclosed libel damages yesterday over an allegation in *Options* magazine that she had had a scandalous liaison with the right-wing Afrikaner politician Eugene Terreblanche.

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Howe 'has no great policy difference with party'

SIR Geoffrey Howe's letter of resignation from the government last week did not reveal any important differences of policy between him and the rest of the Conservative party, the prime minister told the Commons yesterday.

Speaking on the opening day of the six-day debate on the Queen's speech, she also said that industry was better equipped and managed than ever, and the government was getting on top of inflation.

Margaret Thatcher was interrupted constantly as she started to speak about the resignation of Sir Geoffrey. She said that the government much regretted the resignation after his long and distinguished service as foreign secretary and his contribution as Chancellor in laying the foundation of Britain's economic success.

Referring to his resignation letter, she said: "Sir Geoffrey makes clear that he does not want to see a single currency imposed on this country. Nor do we."

He wanted to see Britain playing a full part in Europe's future monetary arrangements. So did the government.

The truth about Neil Kinnock was that he was trying to cover his own embarrassment about Europe because many Labour MPs thought the government was right and so did many of its supporters in the country. They did not want to see Parliament's power steadily and relentlessly diminished.

They did not want to see sterling disappear. They believed in Britain and they knew you had to stand up and be counted in order to uphold your beliefs.

PRIME MINISTER

"When the leader of the Opposition comes to say precisely where he stands he is very obscure."

He sought the approval of the federalists, including the president of the Commission, who had spoken of four-fifths of economic decisions being taken by Brussels. This was not surprising because socialists stood for intervention and central control.

Mr Kinnock was also suspicious that most people did not want a federal Europe. So he was in a dilemma. "He liked to set his policy according to the prevailing wind, but he is not quite sure which way it is blowing, so he resorts to his usual tactic: the less he has to say the more he says it."

Britain, she said, was the only country to have put forward a fully worked-out proposal for the way ahead — not for a single currency but for a common currency that could be used alongside national currencies.

"We want Britain to be part of a successful, prosperous and free trading European Community. We want to work closely with our European friends. But we also want to preserve our national currency and the sovereignty of this House of Commons. That, I believe, is what Britain's interests require and what the people want."

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher said that inflation needed to be brought down and the government would bring it down. Industry was better equipped and managed than ever before. New industries were



The prime minister and Neil Kinnock, Opposition leader, making their way to the House of Lords yesterday to hear the Queen's Speech

growing up and flourishing. The government was now getting on top of inflation. Savings were rising.

The Labour party still believed that prosperity could be created by politicians rather than by enterprise, so they proposed to "make strategic interventions in key sectors of industry". In other words, they would take money from successful firms to hand out to failures, and would restore a host of powers to trade union bosses to disrupt industry, and

would take enterprises from those who knew how to manage them to give to socialist politicians who did not.

"Ex-communists in Eastern Europe are far more advanced in their economic thinking than the backward-looking British Labour party" (Conservative cheer).

Wherever one looked, those who had experienced socialism most were those who liked it least.

Mr Kinnock was always saying that the government

Ashdown fears mood for war

THE STO

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, described the Queen's speech as a sad little programme for the last year of a government that had claimed itself to be reforming and radical. Where it should have been precise, on great issues, the programme was confused, opaque and indecisive.

It was sad because the government's internal problems were preventing it from addressing the great issues.

"We have a party which has run out of steam and, as we shall see in the by-elections, has run out of its time", he said.

Like an old fighter, Margaret Thatcher was always at her best when under attack, but he wondered if she any longer knew what she was doing it for.

She should resign, but he did not expect her to accept the advice. She would continue to fight. As a result the Conservative party would suffer, more important, so would the country. Nowhere would that be more true than in Europe. Twice before we had turned our back on Europe. If we do so this time, the outcome would be even more bitter.

The government was stumbling from one carefully cobbled-together formula to another carefully cobbled-together formula. The prime minister was doing Britain no good by seeking always to fight against the tide instead of becoming involved and turning that tide. She gave the impression that she wanted to row Britain to a secluded area of the Atlantic where she could play Queen Canute.

Liberal Democrats wanted a single currency, but it might be that the Chancellor's hard-edged proposal was a perfectly sensible step forward.

A mood for war in the Gulf was growing in Britain and America, but he did not yet believe that sanctions against Iraq had taken their full effect yet.

Prosperity had brought enormous expansion of choice in goods and services that people could buy. Choice must also extend to public services. They did not belong to government departments, health authorities, town halls, or unions, but to citizens who paid for them with their taxes.

Reforms passed in this parliament were giving people more choice, so that parents, not the local council, chose which school their children went to, and they were not restricted in their choice to local authority schools because every school had the chance to be become an independent state-aided school.

The criminal justice bill would carry forward the fight against crime, ensuring that the severity of the sentence matched the seriousness of the crime and the need to protect the public. It would also make the actual sentence served more closely related to the offence.

John Biffen, former minister, and Conservative MP for North Shropshire, said that a next stage in the confrontation with Iraq was moving inexorably closer.

"Conflict has an uncanny knack of changing its objectives. You cannot ring-fence the Kuwaiti situation."

A regional pact was a formidable objective and he hoped that, with the military planning that now appeared to be proceeding, there was a degree of political and social judgment, so that it would not be another example of winning the war and losing the peace.

Gulf news, page 10

Prime minister 'is unfit to represent UK'

THE prime minister was accused yesterday of being unfit to represent Britain in the European Community. Neil Kinnock told MPs that Margaret Thatcher was "incapable of making the arguments that are essential to the exercise of our influence at this time of great change".

Failure to face those changes would result in Britain's being relegated to the second rank in Europe.

To have success in the Community there must be a partnership between industry and government. Mr Kinnock said at the start of the debate on the Queen's speech: "This government lives to deny that partnership."

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Gulf news, page 10

Leading article, page 17

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Chancellors autumn statement. Continuation of debate on the Queen's speech (foreign affairs and defence).

Lords (3): Continuation of debate on the Queen's speech.

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Tories all in a dither over the right time to challenge the leader

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

There is no settled view in the Conservative parliamentary party or within the government about whether there will be a leadership challenge to Margaret Thatcher this week. Headless chickens ruled yesterday. One minister anxious that any such outcome be avoided said: "I have to say it seems likely. Our postbags are showing she has become the issue. The grumbles about poll tax, interest rates and Europe are all focused on her."

A minute later an ex-minister with no reason to love Mrs Thatcher told me: "I don't see a challenge. The mood is now 'heads down and hang on in there for the general election'." If there were a challenge, he predicted, she would gain the support of a bigger proportion of MPs than the 84 per cent who backed her last year. In a sense Mrs Thatcher

was bound to be a loser in last year's contest, whatever the result. Technically, Sir Anthony Meyer's challenge left her merely bruised. That only 60 MPs denied her their support was hardly surprising, considering that they included 68 whose frontbench services have been dispensed with and 97 Tories who have served 11 years on the back benches without advancement, and know it will not come from her.

But that first challenge did destroy the aura of invincibility. It has made it less of a daunting leap into the unknown for someone to try again this year. And another factor has increased the chances of a second challenge. Immediately after last year's contest a number of dissidents said they did not see the likelihood of a repeat this year. It would, they argued, be too close to a general election to risk another. But the increasing lack of synchronisation between electoral ambition and economic

performance has pushed the prospects of an election to next summer at the earliest. The "no time left" argument no longer inhibits.

There were a few who denied her support last year because they felt she needed a shot across the bows, particularly on Europe, but had no intention of repeating the action. They might now feel along with Sir Geoffrey Howe that lessons had not been learned sufficiently.

The insistence that Mrs Thatcher has reached the end of her shelf-life as far as the electorate is concerned is balanced by the argument that foreign affairs will play heavily at the next election, that the best Tory tactic is to harp on public anxiety about Neil Kinnock's qualifications for the world scene and that her experience is a card that should not be thrown away.

While some argue that Mrs Thatcher has become a liability and must be

challenged to "lance the boil", other critics say such a challenge should be mounted only if it is likely to overturn her. A challenge that merely wings her will cause maximum turmoil for the party, lose many seats, and do nothing to lance any boil. Indeed, it could strengthen her ability to resist a "last-gasp" approach from the sober-suited gentlemen carrying a pearl-handled revolver into the Downing Street library after a local election disaster next spring. Or that argument there is little point in a stalking horse challenge: it must be a real one from a figure who will attract votes in his own right.

Sir Geoffrey Howe will not stand and the new question this week was not so much whether Michael Heseltine would but whether he had damaged himself fatally by issuing that "air-it-up" letter to his constituency officers and then scuttling off abroad. Mr Heseltine has played things brilliantly

until now, defying the laws of political gravity by remaining a national figure on the back benches. But that move, and some better than average, Tory crisis-management, has raised old questions that Mr Heseltine had worked hard to bury. Once again Tory MPs are muttering, as they did over the mace-swinging incident and over Westland, about instability and over-reaction.

Then too there are those who want the next Tory party leader to be John Major or Chris Patten. Although Mr Major is advancing fast and looking tougher by the week, most would feel he is not yet in a position to clinch the leadership if a first-round challenge by a maverick candidate should dominate the party. The same applies more forcefully to those who see Mr Patten as the hope of the future.

That leaves a significant group with an interest in no contest yet. And there

are signs that the whips have dusted off the argument they used last year to deter 'Tory' votes from precipitating a contest. Just suppose a left-wing challenger were to succeed in toppling Mrs Thatcher, they argue, how would the hard-core of the Thatcherite right react to that but by making the party effectively unelectable for a year or more in their bitterness.

I wonder. The right have seems to defend as well. But one thing is sure. There are clear signs of regret now in the Tory high command about the failure after last year's contest to press on with changes in the rules requiring any leadership challenger to have the backing of a minimum number of 23 (or the latest 40) MPs.

On this as on the selection of by-election candidates, a party that has had 11 years in government has something to learn from one that has endured that period in opposition.

Government presses on with legislation to prosecute Nazis

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE government confirmed yesterday its determination to use the parliament acts if necessary to force the war crimes bill through the House of Lords next spring.

The Queen's Speech made clear that the identical measure killed off by the upper House in June will be reintroduced this session. However, as promised by the former deputy prime minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, possible

WAR CRIMES

amendments will be discussed with peers to try to meet their objections about changing the law to bring to trial suspected war criminals who fled from Nazi-occupied territory to Britain.

Government sources also indicated yesterday that Tory MPs could be "whipped" to support the bill this session in

contrast to the previous free votes in both houses.

The bill would set up a special Home Office unit to pursue 127 suspects identified in the Hetherington/Chalmers report. As most of the suspects are now in their 80s, Home Office officials expect that no more than a handful would ever be brought to trial if the legislation becomes law next summer.

The Lords took the unprecedented action of throwing out the original war crimes bill at the second reading by 207 votes to 74 after the MPs had voted four to one in favour of the legislation. A total of 112 Conservative peers and 54 independent peers rebelled, including two former Lord Chancellors: Lord Hailsham and Lord Havers. In addition only eight of the government's payroll vote in the Lords of 22 turned out to vote for the bill.

The contrasting votes showed up the generation gap between the two houses with support for the bill coming most strongly from the post-war generation. Many MPs, including Margaret Thatcher, had been fiercely lobbied by Jewish constituents to change the law so that suspected Nazi war criminals who are now British residents could be prosecuted in Britain even though the atrocities were committed in other countries.

Although MPs objected to the peers' having killed a bill passed by the elected House of Commons, many said after the Lords' debate that they believed the legislation should be dropped.

The teachers' unions, anxious to maintain national pay scales, quickly objected to the ideas, believing that rich authorities would offer more money to recruit good teachers from less wealthy areas.

Britain's largest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, expressed disappointment at the government's decision to allow local pay bargaining. "This will create a free-for-all, particularly at a time of teacher shortage, and add further to the disruption of our children's education," it said.

Local pay deals for teachers

EDUCATION

LOCAL authorities and schools will be allowed to opt out of national pay agreements in 1991-2 under a bill to restore teachers' negotiating rights that were removed in 1987 (David Tyfer writes).

Kenneth Clarke, the new education secretary, inherits the proposal from his predecessor, John MacGregor. Mr Clarke accepts the view that local authorities and schools should be allowed to offer salaries to attract good teachers. His department, however, said that the regulations were so complicated that few local authorities would be interested.

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Patten gets capping powers

THE POLL TAX

CHRIS Patten, the environment secretary, is to gain powers to set the poll tax levels of capped councils under a new local government finance bill that will be laid before the Commons by Christmas (Douglas Broom writes).

The new legislation was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech but the environment department confirmed last night that work on the bill was at an advanced stage.

Fresh legislation is needed to plug a loophole opened in the government's powers by a ruling by the Court of Appeal in September that Mr Patten could not specify the poll tax levels of capped authorities. The new bill will leave capped authorities no alternative but to set their poll tax as directed by the government.

A second environment department bill will exempt owners of holiday caravans from the poll tax. It will be tabled in the New Year.

• Poll tax collectors and telephonists at Haringey council, north London, have called off a strike over redundancies caused by poll tax capping after the council withdrew notices issued to six staff.

Bill opens way to reduce road work

TRANSPORT

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE wanton digging of holes in the road is to be abolished after long-awaited legislative proposals were unveiled in the Queen's Speech yesterday.

Once implemented, the highways bill will end the practice in which the utilities and local authorities effectively dig up the same hole twice and reduce by half the estimated three million holes dug in roads each year. The bill will grant the water, gas, electricity and telephone utilities authority to make permanent road repairs instead of temporary repairs, and waiting for the local authority to make the repair permanent months if not years later.

The utility services say that motorists, accustomed to viewing the roads primarily as highways for vehicles, often forget they are also highways for power supplies, communications, and other essential services. Moreover, because of increased demand for new services, such as cable television, many roads will have to be excavated for new communications networks.

The bill should reduce much of the traffic chaos caused by unnecessary duplication of street works, at the same time making roads safer for cyclists and reducing the number of pedestrian accidents caused by holes in the road.

The Pedestrians' Association says such accidents cause 200 fatalities a year.

Public anger over the proliferation of street works, exacerbated by years of neglect and delay, forced the government to find time for the measure. In addition to reducing the number of holes dug in roads, the bill will introduce a computerised street works register, enabling the highway authorities to co-ordinate works so that newly resurfaced roads are not dug up for utility repairs.

Rodney Gunn, co-ordinator for the national joint utilities group, which represents the interests of the water, gas,

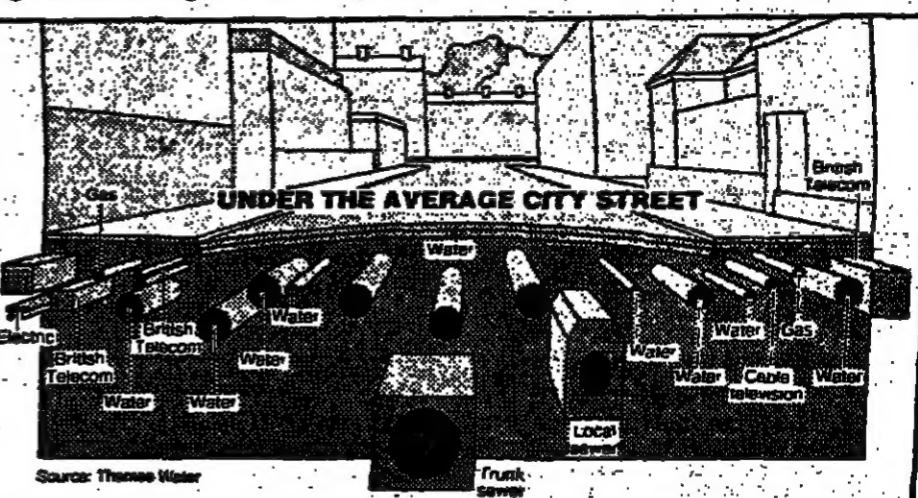


Men at work: the common sight of traffic congestion caused by road work, which the new bill hopes to relieve.

electricity and telephone organisations, said: "The street works bill is good news. It will mean fewer holes in the road, a better road surface and less road congestion."

The bill contains provisions for reforming street works legislation and provisions clearing the way for the introduction of privately financed toll roads and bridges. The bill is one of four transport bills in the new parliamentary session, which will deal with the reform of road traffic law, the privatisation of trust ports and construction of the second Severn bridge.

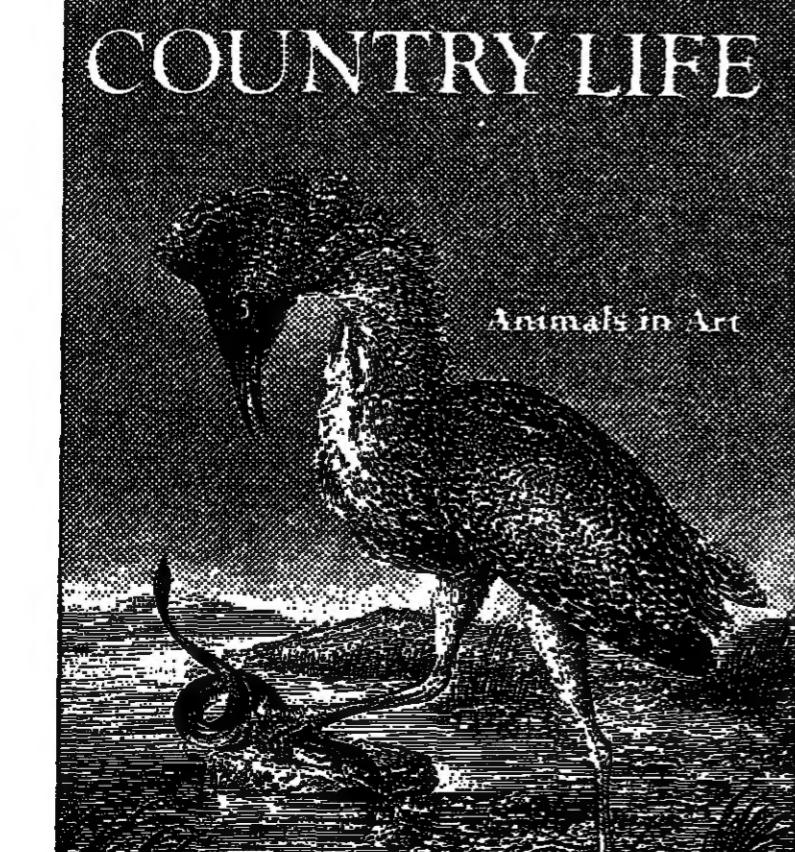
Leading article, page 17



Animals in Art

COUNTRY LIFE

Animals in Art



- Animal paintings - how to choose an artist
- Carved heads in furniture - what they symbolise
- 16th and 17th century animals in precious metals
- The Victorian animal artist who liked his subjects well rounded
- Feline designs in jewellery
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COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

No change in selection for Tories

BY-ELECTION

THE Conservative party has rejected altering the way by-election candidates are selected after a review in the wake of the loss of the safe Tory seat of Eastbourne (Richard Ford writes).

Kenneth Baker, party chairman, ruled out changes to the selection system during a visit yesterday to Bradford North, where there has been criticism of the Tory campaign and of the candidate, Joy Atkin.

The party hierarchy has come under pressure to increase Conservative Central Office involvement in choosing by-election candidates but Mr Baker said: "I do not intend to change that at all. We are a democratic party. We do not impose candidates on associations like the Labour party."

The Conservative party is, however, understood to plan more intensive media training for candidates.

With the Tories expected to poll badly in today's by-elections in Bradford North and in Bootle, Mr Baker said that he took full responsibility for Miss Atkin's campaign. It had not been helped by "noises off" from the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine's criticism of the prime minister.

Labour, defending a 1,633

majority in Bradford North, showed last-minute jitters about a possible low turnout. Its candidate, Terry Rooney, said: "The main reason it has been so low key is the lack of a credible opponent. You need two make a fight."

Conservatives believe they can exclude the Liberal Democrat, David Ward, from second place.

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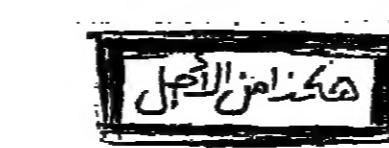
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16/5/90 35

Jewish extremists call for vengeance at Kahane funeral

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

RABBI Meir Kahane, the extremist Jewish leader who was assassinated in New York by an Egyptian-born assailant, was buried in Jerusalem yesterday amid impassioned calls from his followers for "bloody vengeance" against Palestine and other Arabs.

Some of the militants tried to storm the headquarters of Israeli Television, which lies along the route the funeral procession took, and threw stones at passing Arab cars.

"For everything there is a season," a black-coated rabbi from Kahane's own Yeshiva (seminary) told the thousands of mourners giving his own version of Ecclesiastes. "A time to be born, a time to die and a time to kill."

An Orthodox student shouted between sobs and wails: "From now on we will let our friend the knife speak for us." As darkness fell, hundreds of Jewish extremists roamed the streets, and there were several reports of assaults on Arab workers.

Earlier an estimated 15,000 people accompanied the coffin along a three-mile route from the Yeshiva in a working-class suburb near Arab East Jerusalem to a cemetery on a hill just outside the city.

Members of Kahane's militant organisation that Kahane founded, escorted the coffin, some of them armed with Uzi sub-machineguns.

But the Jerusalem police, mindful of the criticism of their mishandling of the Temple Mount riots a month ago,

turned out in force to ensure that order was maintained. Commander Arye Bibi, the chief of police, warned Kahane members that "whoever creates a provocation will be arrested". Journalists, often a target of Kahane anger because of alleged pro-Arab sympathies, were given special police protection. There were 2,500 police on duty, with

outside who encouraged violence on the Israeli right-wing after his election as an MP in 1984 — as a man of virtue, honour and clarity. He made no mention of Kahane's demands for Arabs to be deported.

Kahane activists waved the symbol of their movement, a yellow flag with a clenched fist on it, and shouted "death to Arabs". But not many took up the cry, and in all probability Kahane was buried along with his leader yesterday, if only because it depended on Kahane's charisma. Kahane, according to security forces, has only a few hundred hardcore members.

However, thousands more sympathised with the views Kahane represented, and his death seems bound to worsen the atmosphere of Arab-Jewish enmity.

Gershon Salomon, whose small group of zealots, known as the Temple Mount Faithful, sparked off the Temple Mount riots by trying to lay a foundation stone for a Jewish temple, said Kahane had been "a great fighter for Jewish survival" when I came across him in the crowd. "The only answer lies in expelling all Arabs from the land of Israel."

Two government ministers from the right-wing administration of Yitzhak Shamir attended the funeral, even though Kahane militants regard Mr Shamir's Likud party as too moderate. In a eulogy, Rabbi Mordechay Eliyahu, the chief Sephardi rabbi, appealed to the crowd not to seek revenge. He praised the Brooklyn-born Kahane — seen by many in Israel as an

outfit who encouraged violence on the Israeli right-wing after his election as an MP in 1984 — as a man of virtue, honour and clarity. He made no mention of Kahane's demands for Arabs to be deported.

Kahane, murdered by Egyptian-born assailant

some guarding obvious Arab targets.

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Funeral frays: supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kahane movement in a scuffle at his funeral in Jerusalem yesterday as they tried to move the crowd away when a van carrying his body arrived at his yeshiva or seminary

Cheysson fuels talk of deal on hostages

Paris — Speculation that France may have engaged in secret negotiations to secure last week's release of all its hostages in Iraq has been revived by ambiguous comments from a former French foreign minister (Philip Jacobson writes).

Despite the Socialist government's categorical denial of any deal with President Saddam Hussein, two recent interviews with Claude Cheysson, who served under President Mitterrand, have succeeded in clouding this exceptionally sensitive issue.

Yesterday in *Le Figaro*, M Cheysson specifically refused to confirm or deny persistent rumours that he had met Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, not long before the Saddam regime allowed 262 French nationals to fly home.

After some inconclusive fencing over whether this supposed encounter happened in Amman or Tunis, M Cheysson did deny that he has visited Amman since the Gulf confrontation began. He declared: "I met whom I chose, that's true. Besides, if I did meet Mr Aziz, I fail to see what harm there would have been."

Under pressure to give a straight answer about any contact he might have made with the Iraqis, M Cheysson, an experienced diplomat, sidestepped abruptly. "During my time in government, I had to cope with various matters involving hostages, and the thing I learnt was that one should never comment on the conditions in which their release has been secured."

Since M Cheysson had handled an interview on French television last weekend in similarly ambiguous fashion, declaring that he "denies nothing" on the subject of the hostage release, suspicions were inevitably aroused.

Letters, page 17

Beirut blast

Beirut — At least six people were killed and 15 others wounded when a car rigged with explosives blew up outside a bakery in Aman, a Christian suburb north of here, killing the owner, his wife and their three children. The explosion occurred 20 yards from an office belonging to the pro-Damascus Syrian National Social Party, which blamed the Lebanese Forces Christian militia. (AFP)

Dutch refusal

The Hague — The Netherlands said it had rejected a British request to send more troops to the Gulf to strengthen the West's alliance against Iraq. The country would consider sending more troops "only if there is a UN resolution supporting such an action", a defence ministry spokesman said. Britain asked it to contribute a decontamination company and an engineer support unit. (Reuters)

Desert casualties

Saudi Arabia — More than 2,000 American soldiers have been admitted to hospitals in Germany since the military build-up in the Gulf began in August. Most had suffered heat stroke and minor injuries. Officers said that the number reporting sick had dropped as the weather cooled. Temperatures have fallen to around 30C during the day, compared with 45C in August. (Reuters)

Letters on way

The first guaranteed messages from hostages in Iraq and Kuwait should be on their way to families in Britain by the end of next week, it was announced yesterday by the British Red Cross, which has negotiated a deal with its counterpart in Iraq, the Red Crescent. The families will be able to reply in the same way.

Japan tries to save face on Gulf force

From JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S government has effectively abandoned its plans to send troops to the Gulf. But it is unwilling to kill the proposal formally in parliament, until opposition parties — which control the upper house — by the public, and by Japan's worried Asian neighbours.

The government is also struggling to limit the humiliation for Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, whose clumsy handling of the delicate legislation has weakened his grip on his post.

Ichiro Ozawa, the secretary-general and policy architect of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, has been pressing for a vote on the bill "for the sake of Japan's trust in the international community". But the government's new goal now seems to be a compromise bill that would win the opposition's support. The govern-

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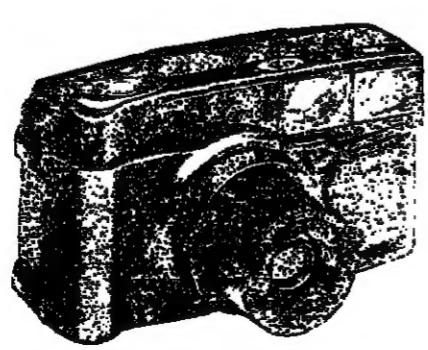
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EC subsidies deal 'threatens 60,000 farms in Britain'

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, AND MICHAEL BINION IN BRUSSELS

UP TO 60,000 small family farms could be forced out of business in Britain over the next five to ten years if the proposal for cutting farming subsidies, agreed this week by European Community agriculture ministers, is implemented, it was claimed yesterday.

The proposal, for subsidy cuts of 30 per cent over the period 1986-1996, will form part of the EC's negotiating position in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

Community officials yesterday began a series of meetings in an attempt to save the tight timetable of world trade negotiations, threatened by community wrangling over the farm package.

In Britain, Sean Rickard, the chief economist of the National Farmers Union, said the logic of the proposal was aimed at controlling over-production of food by progressive cuts in the price support given to farmers under the common agricultural policy (CAP).

That would leave agriculture concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer big farmers and be extremely damaging to the countryside.

"Mr [Raymond] MacSharry [the European agriculture commissioner] has made a ridiculous claim that not one farmer would lose his job as a result of the cuts. It is rubbish

... Why MacSharry has said something he must know he cannot deliver on is beyond me."

Yesterday Frans Andriessen, the external affairs commissioner, met Carla Hills, the US trade representative, and both agreed that the present round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) must finish as planned next month.

The Gatt talks will be a central issue at the ministerial meeting here next week between the European Commission and a group of US cabinet members. President Bush is also expected to review the prospects for agreement when he meets Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, next week.

However, Australian sources in Brussels said they doubted whether the EC offer would survive intact during the negotiations.

British consumer groups dismissed the European proposal as minimalist and said it would do little to reduce the cost of supporting farming.

They pointed out the subsidy cut between now and 1996 would be only about 15 per cent because the EC argued that the rest of the reduction had already been made.

"What we are really looking at is a subsidy cut of perhaps 2 to 3 per cent a year in each of the next five years," Jim

Johnstone, a senior policy adviser at the National Consumer Council, said. "That will do little to control production or to bring down the cost of the CAP to the household budget."

Mr Rickard said Europe could produce all the food it needed with far fewer farmers. "Already in Britain we have a situation where about 30,000 large farms, representing no more than 11 per cent of all holdings, account for 56 per cent of agricultural production. It is these larger intensively managed units which have the best chance of surviving on lower prices."

There is no reason why we could not end up with 30,000 farms accounting for 80 per cent of production. What society has to decide is what kind of countryside and agricultural production methods it wants ... the less intensive production is on the smaller family farms that will be forced out of business."

The German Farmers Federation said the deal would be "disastrous for German agriculture", and there was a growing danger of further incomes cuts for its members.

The opposition Social Democrats and consumers' organisations said that it would mean a higher burden for the taxpayer and consumer.



Party line Boris Yeltsin, left, Russian Federation president, and President Gorbachev watching the Moscow parade to mark the 1917 revolution. Between them are an unidentified woman and Anatoli Lukanin, Soviet parliamentary chairman. Shots fired, page 1

Subdued revolutionary show

From NICK WORRALL IN KIEV AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet armed forces held probably their last traditional Revolution Day parade in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev yesterday. But because of threats of disruption, and public disinterest, it was smaller than usual, more a gesture of defiance than pride.

In Leningrad, members of the ultra-radical Democratic Union and two city councillors were forcibly removed from the monument to Peter

the Great before the military parade, which took place amid tight security. Boris Gidaspov, the city party leader, addressed party members on the need to defend the revolution.

Security precautions in Kiev ensured a smooth event but students again extracted concessions from the conservative authorities, getting the parade moved from central Kiev.

Elsewhere in the Soviet

Sudeten Germans still live in hope of compensation

Anne McElvoy considers the prospects for reparations in the "unmentionable" case of Germans expelled from Czechoslovakia

RUDOLF Janauschek, a Berliner, speaks German with the unmistakable quaver and extravagantly rolled Rs of the Czechs. He recently revisited his native land for the first time in 45 years, calling it "the country of my heart, the country that rejected me".

He is a Sudeten German driven out of the Bohemian town of Eger together with three million of his fellow Germans who had settled in the western Czech border lands in the Middle Ages. It was a purge fuelled by revenge and opportunism. The property of the expelled was redistributed by the new communist regime to the Czechs.

Herr Janauschek's family home in Sazat was seized and given to a police official before he had even left the country. An architect, he was arrested in May 1945 and accused of collaboration because he had designed buildings on the orders of the Nazis. After serving six months at hard labour he fled across the nearby border to Bavaria.

Until the fall of the regime last November, the cause of the Sudeten Germans was little heeded. Their demands for the restitution of their property ranked, according to a German diplomat in Prague, as "the unmentionable, an embarrassment".

Bonn was unwilling to take up a case which would remind the world of the events of 1938. Post-war Germany was forced to accept the mass expulsion as its punishment and had resigned itself to letting the matter be. But when Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, visited Prague last Friday he agreed with President Havel that it was now time to place the Sudeten question back on the agenda. The low-key agreement means that both sides now acknowledge the Sudeten question as the unfinished business of the second world war. It was the uncompromising Mr Havel who first mentioned the unmentionable. "We were infected by the bacillus of evil," he told President von Weizsaecker of Germany. "We expelled people not only on the basis of proven guilt but simply as members

of a certain nation. That was ... simply revenge."

The population at large is anxious not to mention the expulsion but, with the border a mere 50 miles away, things German dominate the conversation. "We need their investment," said one local businessman. "But not at the price of a second takeover — an economic one."

At the elderly Association of Sudeten Germans in Mich, they admit to a lack of interest from the offspring of those expelled, most of whom no longer consider themselves Sudeten Germans. The prospect of compensation for land lost



Havel: first mentioned the unmentionable

to the Czech state in 1945 may soon change that.

Manfred Riedel, the Sudeten Germans' spokesman, admits that restitution is impossible after 45 years but wants to see compensation on the model of what was done in East Germany. "A great injustice was done to us," he said. "That has been suppressed for too long to keep the peace. Why should Germans from the east be compensated and Sudeten Germans not?"

The difference is that it is the united German state which will pay compensation to former owners of property in the east with no extant state left to shoulder the financial and political burden of the atonement. But nobody has yet come up with a convincing explanation of how an economically stricken Czechoslovakia could afford to pay for past injustices to the Sudeten Germans.

Open border plan for hunters' guns

By MICHAEL BINION

AT A TIME of mounting debate over hunting in Britain, European Community ministers are being asked today to let blood sports enthusiasts roam the community with their guns, unhampered by border checks.

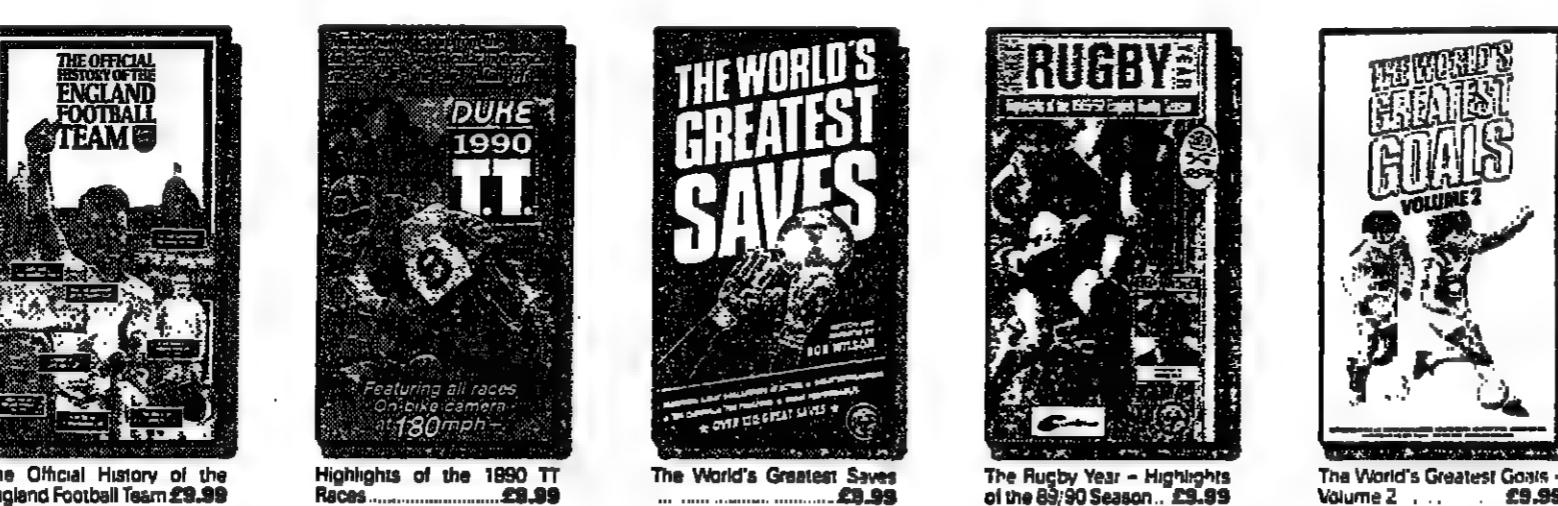
Trade ministers meeting in Brussels will look at proposals to allow anyone wanting to shoot game in another member state to do so without prior consent. Common regulations have to be agreed before the removal of frontier controls, so that huntsmen can legally take their guns across unmanned borders.

Britain, however, is likely to insist on strict controls and the continued right of inspection, after the Hungerford shooting rampage and because of concern about terrorist gunrunning. Britain will demand that anyone from continental Europe wanting to bring in his

guns first find a British sponsor or apply on his behalf to the local police.

The European Commission is trying to work out a system of notification that is not too bureaucratic. It proposes that anyone wanting to hunt abroad would have to inform the local authorities that granted the original licence. They in turn would have to notify their counterparts in the region where the hunt is to be organised. No prior permission for the transport of guns would be needed as long as the hunter held a "European firearms certificate".

Britain doubts that such a system would work. The commission and the European Parliament have already agreed that countries such as Britain and Ireland that are demanding prior permission should be allowed to keep their regulations.



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CREDIT

Hirohito 'allowed attack on US for fear of civil war'

By DAVID WATTS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HIROHITO, the late emperor of Japan, told aides that he did not oppose the military's plan to attack the United States in 1941 because he feared a devastating civil war, according to documents released yesterday.

In an eight-hour conversation in the spring of 1946, when allied occupation forces were considering whether the emperor should be charged with war crimes, Hirohito also denied, in perhaps the clearest terms ever, that he was a living god, according to a transcript. The conversation was apparently part of the preparations by aides for a possible war-crimes trial.

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation said that the transcript of the conversation was made by Hiroyuki Terasaki, a former diplomat who translated for the emperor in some of his meetings

with Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of the allied powers during the post-war occupation of Japan. "If I had tried to veto the beginning of the Pacific war, a coup d'état would have occurred, and my trusted aides would have been killed. My life also could not have been guaranteed," Hirohito said, referring to a meeting in December 1941 when the attack decision was made.

"Even if that were acceptable, a violent civil war would have occurred, resulting in a tragedy several times worse than the recent (second world) war, and leading to circumstances that the war would not have ended. I believe that Japan would have been destroyed," he said, according to the transcript.

This new information on the late emperor's attitude clarifies what many historians

have thought was an ambivalent period in which he appeared to endorse the military's drive to war. Westerners have for some time failed to understand why he did not stand by his opposition to the war by resisting the military even at the risk of his life. Judging by this transcript, he had his eye on an even longer span of history and was considering the fact that, should he oppose his government on such a fundamental question, it would discredit the throne and probably throw the country into a new period of the tribalism from which it had, conclusively, emerged only during his father's reign.

The broadcasting corporation quoted Hirohito as saying he did not stop the war because he feared the public might believe the government had given in to the United States, despite a strong army and navy.

Neither at that time of turbulence, nor later, did he say much about his wartime role despite a widespread belief abroad that he should be held responsible for failing to restrain his military.

Hirohito always maintained that, as a constitutional monarch, he could not intervene in the war plans of his government. In fact, he was never charged with war crimes because the Americans took a political decision that he could play a more important role in unifying Japan than in paying a futile price for the past.

Professor Otis Cary, of Doshisha University, Kyoto, and an acquaintance of the emperor, said that to his knowledge the emperor had never previously referred to a possible coup. In contrast, he added, Hirohito had taken a strong role in putting down a coup attempt within the army in 1936.

"But, by December 1941, the situation was so tight. The military had complete hold on the government," Professor Cary said. "The emperor just held his peace."

The transcript quotes Hirohito as telling his aides that it was "troubling" for him to be referred to as a living god. The Kyodo News Service said the transcript recorded the emperor as saying: "Biologically, I have the same body as ordinary people, so I am not a god." Although Hirohito is considered to have renounced his divinity in a New Year's message in 1946, Japanese right-wingers maintain that the Japanese translation of his remarks, which were originally written in English and probably intended primarily for Western consumption, does not explicitly deny his pre-war status as a Shinto god.

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation said that when Terasaki died, the transcripts of the conversation were given to his daughter, Mariko Terasaki Miller, who lives in the United States and recently rediscovered them.

India's Muslims number more than 100 million in a country of 853 million,

Muslims fearful of Hindu tide

Muslims' worries are multiplied by the defeat of V.P. Singh, seen as their ally against militant Hindus, writes Christopher Thomas



Sacred mission: a Hindu holy man, one of thousands of devotees, gathered in Ayodhya where many have died in efforts to regain a religious site

are the largest Islamic population outside Indonesia and Bangladesh. It is their position that provides the acid test for India's claim to be secular. Yet their mood has rarely been so frail.

This atmosphere of tension and insecurity lies behind the present political turmoil in Delhi. Many people are worried that the surge of communalism, coupled with an explosion of caste conflict, is tearing at the fabric of Indian society and threatening its secular character.

It is a measure of the political power of communalism that the government, barely a year old, has split. Their defection reflected Muslim unease about Congress's attempts to accommodate Hindu extremists over the Babri Masjid by allowing the laying of a foundation stone for a Hindu temple, which sowed the seeds of the present upheaval.

The relatively new phenomenon of Hindu politics is known as *Hindutva* or Hinduness. Its growth, fanned by the opportunism of bodies like the Bharatiya Janata Party, has been matched by a rise in Islamic fundamentalism in India.

The basic question for Muslims is how far they want to be absorbed into the Indian mainstream, and to

United the mid-1970s Muslim mostly voted for

Bonn gets details of terror attacks

Bonn - Six of the eight former Red Army Faction terrorists arrested this summer in East Germany have given statements to the state prosecutor which have cleared up the background of nine serious crimes, including an attempt to assassinate General Alexander Haig, when supreme commander of Nato troops in Europe (ian Murray writes).

Alexander von Stahl, the state prosecutor, said yesterday that the statements covered ten murders, a grenade attack, two assassination attempts, an armed robbery in Zurich, the near-fatal shooting of a policeman in Paris, an explosives attack on an American air base in Ramstein, a kidnapping, and attempted kidnapping.

The state prosecutor was a prime target for the faction and one of Herr von Stahl's predecessors was killed by the terrorists in 1977, while his office had been attacked by grenades in the same year.

The two failed assassination attempts were on General Haig when travelling in a motorcade through Belgium in 1979 and on General Frederick Kroesen, another American, at Heidelberg in 1981. At the time, all that General Haig knew about the attempt on his life was that his motorcade slowed down.

Jet withdrawal

Manila - The United States will remove all fighter aircraft from the Philippines next year, an American embassy statement said. More than 1,800 military personnel are to leave as a result. The statement was issued as Richard Armitage, the American diplomat charged with negotiating an agreement on the future of United States facilities here, including Clark air base, arrived in Manila. (Reuter)

Moving house

Tokyo - The Japanese parliament, in an unprecedented resolution, demanded to be moved out of over-populated Tokyo. Both houses of the Diet voted for similar resolutions, which are neo-binding on the government but express urgent concern over congestion in the capital. A number of possible sites have been mentioned for a new parliament, including Mount Fuji. (AP)

22 die in quake

Tehran - A severe earthquake hit mountain villages in southern Iran killing at least 22 people, injuring more than 100, most of whom children, and making 12,000 homeless. Tehran Radio said the quake, measuring 6.6 on the open-ended Richter scale and centred on the town of Darab, damaged 18 villages and destroyed 1,550 houses in the Zagros mountains on Tuesday evening. (Reuter)

Emergency lifted

Islamabad - Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, has lifted the three-month-old state of emergency in his first day on the job. The emergency was imposed on August 6 after Benazir Bhutto's government was dismissed. Mr Sharif said he wanted the new government headed by his Islamic Democratic Alliance to begin in "an open atmosphere of human freedom". (AP)

Reforms wanted

Bucharest - Some of Romania's main opposition groups have formed a coalition to press for radical reforms as the country struggles towards full democracy. The creation of the Civic Alliance was announced in *Romania Libera*, the independent daily newspaper, marking the latest effort by the divided opposition to unite against President Ceausescu's ruling National Salvation Front. (Reuter)

Up in smoke

Juneau, Alaska - Alaskans have voted to make private possession of marijuana a crime again, striking down the nation's most liberal "pot" law. In what amounted to a local referendum on election day, the measure was passed by a vote of 27,538, or 46 per cent, to 23,586, or 40 per cent. For 15 years, Alaskan law has permitted adults to possess less than 4oz of the drug in their homes. (AP)

World closes ranks to fight warming

From MICHAEL McCARTHY IN GENEVA

THE world community launched its response to global warming yesterday when 137 countries committed themselves to negotiating a treaty protecting the atmosphere by June 1992.

Barely two years after the problem of climate change came to widespread public attention, nations assembled at the World Climate Conference in Geneva unanimously accepted the warning by United Nations scientists that the threat to humanity from the greenhouse effect is unprecedented.

They agreed to draw up an atmosphere convention whose ultimate aim will be to restrict emissions of greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles in every country in the world. Chris Patten, the environment secretary, who represented Britain at the meeting, said

Nigel Hawkes, page 16

yesterday: "It will make the conventional round of disarmament negotiations look straightforward by comparison."

However, the need to take action was accepted on all sides, and ministers said in their final declaration: "Recognising that climate change is a global problem of unique character, we consider that a global response must be decided and implemented without further delay."

All countries agreed that a basic-framework convention on the atmosphere should be ready for signature at the UN conference on environment and development to be held in Brazil in June 1992. It will be accompanied, perhaps at a later stage, by binding protocols on greenhouse gas emissions and possibly the destruction of tropical forests.

In the six months since the inauguration of President Chamorro, this sweltering city has begun hustling to a different beat. Dance bands have replaced the lonesome revolutionary ballads that used to delight audiences at El Cipio, a coffee house.

"People used to have a bad conscience to like and do things that didn't fit the revolutionary scheme," said Marcos Membreño, of the University of Central America. "Now they don't face the threat of being accused of being bourgeois so much."

Nicaraguans describe the spruce young men and women who have taken over this once-accused society as "Miami Boys", although most simply copy new trends from imported magazines.

In something of a conservation boom, Managua hums to the sound of housing renova-

tion. Rents are rocketing. House owners who asked \$800 (£420) a month in rent four months ago now get \$2,000.

But despite the superficial gloss, Nicaragua remains the hemisphere's poorest country after Haiti. A full-time job remains little more than a fading promise from the Chamorro campaign for about half of all Nicaraguans.

But, government officials maintain that the new-found fashion consciousness shows that attitudes are changing and that their economic programme is taking root.

Unradical chic hits Managua

From LINDSEY GRUSON IN MANAGUA

THE bourgeoisie is back. It is hip to be rich here, and better yet to flaunt it.

After a decade of revolutionary asceticism, business suits are in, jungle fatigues out, neon graphics in murals or muscled workers out.

In the six months since the inauguration of President Chamorro, this sweltering city has begun hustling to a different beat. Dance bands have replaced the lonesome revolutionary ballads that used to delight audiences at El Cipio, a coffee house.

"People used to have a bad

TO SEE HOW A BLACK SQUARE CAN IMPROVE YOUR TELEVISION PICTURE, TURN BACK A PAGE.

The sullen American votes for caution

THE SENATE

Of the 100 Senate seats, 35 were at stake. The position of the seat and the percentage of votes counted is indicated under the state name. The winner is in bold and candidates are followed by their party and number of votes polled. Incumbents are shown by the date they were first elected in brackets.

	Dem	Rep	Ind
Won	18	17	1
Holdovers	38	27	0
Trend	56	44	0
Current	55	45	0
Net Change	+1	-1	0

MISSISSIPPI

No change — No major challenge
Thad Cochran (78) — R

MONTANA

No change — Count: 100%
Max Baucus (78) — D 217,451

ALABAMA

No change — Count: 99%
Howell Heflin (78) — D 701,444

Bill Curbiss — R 454,824

NEBRASKA

No change — Count: 99%
Don Exon (78) — D 342,313

Hal Daub — R 237,098

NEW HAMPSHIRE

No change — Count: 99%
Robert Smith — R 187,949

John Durkin — D 91,333

NEW JERSEY

No change — Count: 99%
Bill Bradley (78) — D 869,583

Christine T. Whitman — R 811,247

NEW MEXICO

No change — Count: 99%
Pete Domenici (72) — R 234,225

Tom Bensel — D 103,375

NORTH CAROLINA

No change — Count: 99%
Jesse Helms (72) — R 1,068,570

Harvey Gantt — D 982,533

IDAHO

No change — Count: 99%
Larry Craig — R 178,563

Don Halligan — D 112,752

ILLINOIS

No change — Count: 99%
Paul Simon (64) — D 2,074,570

Lynn Martin — R 1,119,910

INDIANA

No change — Unopposed
Sam Nunn (72) — D

HAWAII

No change — Count: 100%
Daniel Akaka (50) — D 154,354

Patricia Saiki — R 124,369

OREGON

No change — Count: 100%
Mark Hatfield (66) — R 541,035

Harry Lonsdale — D 438,436

RHODE ISLAND

No change — Count: 99%
Clifford P. Foley (60) — D 216,253

Claudine Schmid — R 133,593

SOUTH CAROLINA

No change — Count: 99%
Strom Thurmond (54) — R 475,399

Bob Cunningham — D 241,826

SOUTH DAKOTA

No change — Count: 99%
Larry Pressler (78) — R 133,745

Tom Daschle — D 114,565

Dean Sander — I 6,457

TENNESSEE

No change — Count: 100%
Al Gore (54) — D 526,866

William Hawkins — R 229,714

TEXAS

No change — Count: 99%
Phil Gramm (84) — R 2,268,360

Hugh Parmer — D 1,422,680

VIRGINIA

No change — Count: 99%
John Warner (78) — R 872,764

Nancy Spannaus — I 196,257

WEST VIRGINIA

No change — Count: 100%
Jeff Rockefeller (84) — D 274,514

John Yoder — R 265,036

WYOMING

No change — Count: 100%
Al Simpson (78) — R 100,800

Kathy Helling — D 66,982

MASSACHUSETTS

No change — Count: 91%
John Kerry (84) — D 1,180,210

Jim Rappaport — R 682,724

MICHIGAN

No change — Count: 99%
Carl Levin (78) — D 1,445,620

Bill Schuette — R 1,036,120

MINNESOTA

Democrat gain — Count: 99%
Paul Wellstone (78) — D 869,078

Rudy Boschwitz (78) — R 810,169

LOUISIANA

No change — Previously elected
Bernard Johnston (72) — D

MAINE

No change — Count: 97%
William Cohen (78) — R 305,481

Ned Rode — D 192,284

ALABAMA

No change — Count: 99%
Tom Bevill (58) — D 1,000,000

Don Young (73) — R 999,000

MISSOURI

No change — Count: 99%
John Danforth (78) — D 1,000,000

Sam Nunn (72) — R 999,000

ARKANSAS

1 D Undecided (D)

2 D Morris Udall (61)

3 D Bob Stump (76)

4 R Jon Kyl (86)

5 R Jim Kolbs (84)

6 D Beryl Anthony (78)

7 D Claude Harris (86)

CALIFORNIA

1 D Undecided (D)

2 R Walter Mondale (78)

3 D Tom Harkin (78)

4 D Newt Gingrich (76)

5 D George Miller (74)

6 D Ronald Dellums (70)

7 D Fortney Stark (72)

8 D Don Edwards (62)

9 D Tom Lantos (60)

10 D Tom Campbell (68)

11 D Norman Mineta (74)

12 R Julian Dixon (78)

13 D Maxine Waters (D)

14 D Matthew Martinez (82)

FLORIDA

1 D Undecided (D)

2 D Charles E. Gandy (78)

3 D Tom Foley (78)

4 D John Conyers (64)

5 D Bill McCollum (80)

6 D Clifford Stearns (82)

7 D Sam Gibbons (82)

8 D George Miller (74)

9 D John Yarmuth (76)

10 D Jerry Moran (78)

11 D Jim Bacchus (78)

12 R Tom Lewis (82)

13 R Porter Goss (88)

14 R Leon Panetta (76)

15 R John Dingell (78)

16 D Lawrence Smith (88)

17 D Charles E. Melton (78)

18 D William Lehman (72)

19 D Sheila Jackson (88)

20 D Bill Thompson (78)

21 D Elton Gallegly (86)

22 D Carlos Monedero (72)

23 D Anthony Babbino (76)

24 D Henry Waxman (74)

25 D Edward Roybal (82)

26 D Howard Berman (82)

27 D Mel Levine (82)

28 D Julian Dixon (78)

29 D Maxine Waters (D)

30 D Matthew Martinez (82)

GEORGIA

1 D Undecided (D)

2 D John Lewis (86)

3 D John Lewis (78)

4 D John Lewis (86)

5 D John Lewis (86)

6 D Julian Dixon (78)

7 D Julian Dixon (78)

8 D Julian Dixon (78)

9 D Julian Dixon (78)

10 D Julian Dixon (78)

11 D Julian Dixon (78)

12 D Julian Dixon (78)

13 D Julian Dixon (78)

14 D Julian Dixon (78)</

De Klerk's silent friends

Shaun Johnson

South Africans will be watching today's result of the Randburg by-election for evidence of a further drift in white support from the reform programme of President F.W. de Klerk to the old certainties of the pro-apartheid Conservative party. More telling for the country's future is the reaction of the black population to the most recent reform: last month's desegregation of public facilities. The response has been calm, almost bored.

It is a measure of just how profound is South Africa's transition that the repeal of the separate amenities legislation, effective from midnight on October 15, should have meant so little to the black majority. Their reaction to the Discriminatory Legislation Regarding Public Amenities Repeal Bill (to give it its official title) suggests a much deeper understanding of the processes underway in South Africa than does that of right-wing whites, fighting an ugly but doomed rearguard battle against the inevitable.

Access to swimming pools, libraries, smarter buses and cleaner public lavatories means precious little to black citizens who have their eye on a bigger prize: the vote, and ultimate power. They have waited for the better part of four decades, and can wait a little longer.

There have been a few token "swim-ins" and "read-ins" by blacks at pools and libraries in small towns, but in general lack of interest prevails. The African National Congress called, somewhat half-heartedly, on its members to make a point of using facilities previously barred to them, but in the end more newspaper reporters than citizens bothered to test the waters.

Within the chambers of the 102 councils controlled by the Conservative party in Transvaal province, the reaction has been very different. Whites to the right of de Klerk's ruling National party place tremendous symbolic store on the fact of being forced to rub shoulders with their black neighbours. The result has been a flurry of bureaucratic antics, astoundingly small-minded and pitifully futile.

The Springs town council shut down its swimming pool rather than grant entry to blacks. Dr Pieter Gous, Conservative MP for Bothaville, says he will do the same if there is a single racial conflict: "We can do without the swimming pool." In Sasolburg, only those who carry a "season ticket" are permitted to swim: season tickets are issued to local ratepayers and local ratepayers are, by definition, white. At Vanderbijlpark would-be swimmers must produce their latest water and light accounts, or pay a punitive fee.

Membership of Bethal's library suddenly costs £100 a year for "non-residents" and practically nothing for local whites. "Non-resident" borrowers from

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

"DEAR Member of The Kinkat Club," I wrote to the 46 young women whose names I had been given by their secretary, "last month I had the honour of addressing you at your Berkeley Square meeting; I write now to ask a favour: I am president of the Down's Syndrome Association and on November 16 we are holding a ball at the Natural History Museum. I should be immensely grateful if you would try to help this worthy cause, either personally or by persuading your employer to buy programme advertising, provide a gift for the tombola, possibly purchase a ticket or two. I enjoyed meeting you; I look forward to your reply."

From the 46 letters to well-heeled (also well-soled and immaculately connected — one was called Heseltine) ladies I received a single response. A mummy wrote to say she had opened the communication addressed to her daughter "who has gone to China for 18 months", an extreme way, you might agree, of bypassing a charitable request.

At the next gathering of the Ball committee I reported unqualified failure in my fund-raising attempts — but bought a table for 10 for £1,000. If the president of an association does not make that sort of gesture, how can he expect others to do so? A wonderfully generous supporter gave as a raffle prize a rail journey on the Queen of Scots, and we agreed to meet again in May. I wrote to a number of shops like Swaine, Adeney, Brigg & Sons, who owe me a shooting stick and replies to two letters. Swaine, Adeney, Brigg and their sons showed admirable consistency; they now owe me a shooting stick and replies to three letters. Aquascutum was generous to a fault.

By the June meeting we had sold 24 of the 40 tables, eight pages of advertising, and discussed gifts for the tombola. Committee members had persuaded local restaurants to donate dinner-and-wine vouchers. Cuddly toys, silk scarves, costume jewellery and a television set had appeared. In July we agreed our booking of Marti Webb in cabaret and that of a famous band to provide dance music. Against all my arguments a toastmaster was engaged.

Witbank's library must pay a £4 deposit on a book. Newcastle's library will simply refuse to enrol any new members, preferring to have patrons die off and dwindle rather than admit blacks. Blacks wishing to relieve themselves at Secunda's shopping centre can choose to do so free in their "own" toilets, or pay 10p for the privilege of using the whites' porcelain next door. The lavatory attendant, Miss Maria Botha, disarmingly says "my job is not to open the toilets for black people."

Other councils have chosen to "privatise" local resorts, spas and caravans parks, hoping thereby to evade the new law. Then there are the municipal by-laws, which allow officials to eject any person who, in the opinion of an official, is "causing unpleasant or offensive smells" or "fighting, shouting, arguing or singing". In the rural backwaters, these will be applied unembarrassedly.

The government, at least, has taken the Conservative party seriously, issuing dark warnings to the diehards. "I want to warn town councils that if they try funny tricks in an attempt to get around the full implications of the scrapping of this act," said Mr Hennus Kriel, the minister of planning and provincial affairs, "they may be taken to court."

By contrast, instead of anger, many blacks have chosen to greet the Conservative's contortions with a measure of pity, and even wit. A teacher interviewed in the township of Keston, abouting Bothaville, said he had no intention of booking space in the white cemetery. "No, we don't want to sit in their graveyard," he smiled. "Whites don't respect the dead in the same way that we do." Still others have set about purchasing the obsolete racist signs, souvenirs of what they delightedly call "separate insanities".

This is all good news for President de Klerk. The sky has not fallen in with the scrapping of the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, and the pockets of white resistance will surely shrink. In the main metropolitan areas such as Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, segregation has in any event been dying of its own accord.

The reform constitutes another step toward the unthinkable, and, if incidents of racial friction can be contained, it further smoothes the way to substantive constitutional negotiations. There will indeed be sporadic clashes, but they come nowhere near constituting the "third Boer war" promised by Dr Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative's leader.

In their blase response, black South Africans have done Mr de Klerk a great favour. So have his white opponents on the far right: by fighting tooth and nail for their money, and it is well known that putting your money under the mattress is the most secure form of saving ever devised.

True, you receive no interest, but that is a small price to pay for the warm, happy feelings of satisfaction and security you will experience every time you get into bed and realise that your money is not in a bank.

Where did the world — the advanced world, anyway — get the idea that banks were prudent, efficient institutions, run by people of judgment, intelligence, knowledge and understanding?

This grotesque and dangerous myth has made its way into the very language: "You can bank on it"; "it's money in the bank"; "Safe as the Bank of England". The words "bank manager" conjure up a sober-suited middle-aged man adept at putting his fingers together, dispensing wisdom and looking pained, if not horrified, at the suggestion of an overdraft.

At that level, there is something in it; the young lady behind the window is most unlikely to urge you to put your life savings in Flybynight-Roulettewheel Securities plc, registered in the Cayman Islands, and the leading source of

They all agreed to contribute. By late August we had 95 prizes; we needed 200 in order to sell 800 tickets at £5 and give prizes to one in four chance of success. In September it began to get better: George Walker of William Hill contributed a racecourse champagne lunch and free bets. Virgin Airways — may their virginity never diminish — donated a magnificent prize of two flights to New York, accommodation in a luxury hotel and tickets for a Broadway show.

Having spent a day in a distillery near Inverness and drunk malt whisky until I fell over, it occurred to me that malt whisky men might represent a source of untapped generosity. I spoke to John Milroy of Greek Street, purveyor of wines and stockist of more single malts than anyone; took him to lunch to which he brought his brother, author of the malt almanac, and as a consequence I wrote to the Keepers of the Quaich, an organisation set up by the industry with the long-term aim of supporting charities. Of 18 firms to whom I wrote I received 14 positive replies, averaging four bottles per company. It was like discovering the philosopher's stone. Rare old malts streamed south like homing pigeons.

With eight days to go we have more than 260 prizes, all our tables are sold, but we could still do with an auctioneer to obtain inflated prices for Lunch with Esther Rantzen in the BBC canteen; Tea with Claire Rayner at the Savoy; Snooker with Rex Williams; Dinner with me. Perhaps I will get into next year's Ball Queen list.

Nigel Hawkes, science editor, accuses Mrs Thatcher of accepting cant on global warming

Is this really a scientist speaking?

In her address to the World Climate Conference on Tuesday, Mrs Thatcher made a remark that chills the blood. "We must not waste time and energy disputing the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change," she said. "Or debating the right machinery for making progress." Instead, sacrifices in people's lives were essential, and precautionary action should begin at once to counter the threat of global warming.

Is this a scientist speaking? The prime minister makes much of her background in chemistry, and enjoys long seminars in Downing Street at which some of Britain's brighter brains are called in to brief her on issues like genetic engineering. Somewhere along the way she seems to have abandoned her scientific scepticism and adopted the simple clichés of the environmental activists.

The truth is that there are many things in the IPCC report that must be disputed, energetically. As a scientific hypothesis, man-made global warming is plausible but unproven. The scientists closest to the subject make clear their un-

certainties at every opportunity, but in the dash towards international action doubts have been forgotten, caveats ignored, and a scientific theory given the status of an ideology.

The development of the science of global warming has followed a familiar pattern, seen before in the limits-to-growth debate of the early Seventies and the nuclear-winter broohaha in the Eighties. All three are based on predictions made by computer models, a notoriously slippery branch of lower mathematics.

In the two earlier cases, the models first produced a really frightening scenario. As time passed and the models were refined, the predictions diminished until they disappeared or were forgotten in the mists of a new controversy. Very much the same has been happening to the global warming models. The dogmatic statements which set the whole caravan on the move have been trimmed and toned down as further work has been done. The scientific working group of the IPCC is now claiming only a 1C rise by 2025 if we pursue business

as usual — far less than was predicted even two years ago. The group now forecasts a rise in sea-level of 20 cm by 2030, again much lower than earlier estimates.

Remarkably, the IPCC's working group two, whose job was to assess the potential impacts of climate change, has not taken these second thoughts into account. Its report is based on 1988 figures, and talks glibly of sea-level rises between half a metre and two metres. The only document that many politicians at Geneva this week will read is the policymakers' summary of working group three (which was set up to discuss responses). This concentrates on the effects of sea-level rises of a metre or more, although the latest figures suggest this will not come until well into the century after next.

More important, perhaps, is the question of whether even the lower estimates can be trusted. Much is made of the fact that they are agreed by 190 scientists, or 300, or as many as you like; but that is irrelevant, for science is not a democracy which advances by weight of numbers. Millions of

people believed in the truth of Karl Marx's theories, but it did not make them true.

The acid test of any model is whether it can mimic reality.

Industrialisation began in the second half of the 18th century, so we now have at least 200 years' experience of pumping carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Can the computer models match the actual experience of those 200 years?

They cannot. They predict a much higher rate of warming than has been observed, clearly indicating that there is some complicating factor absent from the models.

In particular, they fail to account for a prolonged period of cooling running from the Twenties to the Sixties, just when industrial activity was getting into full swing around the world. This was the trend that led many climatologists in the Seventies to forecast an ice age; in some cases, the very same men who now claim the world is heating up uncontrollably.

The situation, then, is this. Computer models predicting temperature rises very much smaller than their proven margins of error

could all be recouped if they sent out demands for thousands of pounds from each ratepayer. But before that administrable solution could be put into practice, they discovered, to their ill-concealed delight and relief, that the entire set of transactions was unlawful; the councilors were not empowered to raise the wind with swap options.

You can see what is coming, though of course the banks didn't. If the transactions were valid *ab initio*, the councilors could not lawfully pile up the gigantic debts that the nature of the swap options had led to, and could therefore not sack the borough's inhabitants for them. So the banks, which had in effect underwritten the mad scheme, were — are — in the hole for anything up to £750 million: they had failed to discover whether the actions of Hammersmith and Fulham were within their municipal powers, and what would happen if they were not.

Within the last few weeks, our "Big Four" have all announced disappointing, even alarming, figures of profits and losses; hundreds of millions of pounds have been, in the quaint language of their world, "written off". As practitioners of sound husbandry, they have decided to retrench; many bank premises will be closed, many employees will lose their jobs. All this is clear; what is not clear is whether the banks are going to explain how they failed to take the simplest precautions in the matter of the swap options, and whether a substantial tranche of the boards of directors, rather than the employees, should lose their jobs.

I understand no more of swap options than did the hapless Hammersmith councilors. But that is why I do not dabble in them, and why the councilors also should not have dabbled. The banks are supposed to know all about such arcane mysteries, else what are the banks for? How did they come to sink such sums in a game of chance which leaked improbability from every corner?

I cannot answer those questions. Nor, I imagine, can the mattress manufacturers. But they do not need to; all they have to do is to build more factories immediately, and be ready for the rush.

Bernard Levin checks the accounts and questions the right of banks to be considered safe repositories of cash

mooneams extracted from cucumbers. But I have little doubt that the boards of directors, the men who actually own, run and manage the banks, are at this moment putting the final touches to a tastefully designed brochure, which will go out as a malshot to all customers, suggesting they should buy a substantial slice of Polly Peck, at most advantageous prices.

Many commentators, including me, have tried to estimate the total sum that our "Big Four" banks threw away in the form of loans to the most corrupt and incompetent Third World leaders, loans which were to all intents unsecured, unexamined, unsafe and in the end unrecoverable. The most likely figure I have seen is £2 billion, though that record is easily beaten by the American banks, with their delightful anyone-can-play game called Savings and Loans. The rules of that pastime were simple: people put all their cash into the banks, and the banks failed to notice that it was immediately stolen.

Of course, the "Big Four" and

the "S & L" are not strictly separate; banking today is international. Our banks, therefore, damaged American ones while the American ones were damaging ours, a satisfactory state of affairs, providing as it does the greatest and most numerous opportunities for banks on both sides of the Atlantic to devise, patent and exchange new ways of losing their customers' money and their own.

But the latest shamer our banks have come up with is surely their most magnificent; indeed, in the annals of human folly it must already occupy an honoured place, secure to the remotest posterity.

It all began in Hammersmith, of all places. Somebody went to the local authority there with a plan for "Interest-rate swap options". The councilors, as one, cried: "Of course — interest-rate swap options! The very thing! Why didn't we think of it before?"

Now it is virtually certain that not one of the elected representatives of the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham had

even the slightest idea what interest-rate swap options were. (Pause for old army joke.) Sergeant to his squad: "Gawd knows why, the brass have decided you should have some cultural lectures, and the first one is on Keats. But it's wasted on you — you lot are so pugnacious that you probably don't know what Keats are.") But when the salesman had finished, they agreed enthusiastically that whatever interest-rate swap options were, they must have some. So they emptied the municipal coffers, knocked the mace and the mayoral chain, sold the town hall, and came back with as many interest-rate swap options as the municipal ducestand could hold.

Shortly afterwards they discovered that they had lost the lot. It seems that certain interest rates had gone up — or, as it might be, down — whereas for the scheme to succeed they would have had to go down — or, in the alternative, up. No matter, since the councilors were using the citizens' money, of course for the citizens' benefit, it was.

His own prepared speech, which totally contradicted his earlier message.

"I said it's a horrible government and does horrible things but it's extremely tough. However, I did urge the audience to vote for a Thatcher government instead of Mrs Thatcher." Nevertheless, the spectators overwhelmedly passed a no-confidence motion in the government.

Criminal investigator

From California some heartening news for criminals with a talent for scientific research. Syed Salahuddin, a scientist convicted of misdirecting federal research funds, has been spared a jail term. He has been sentenced instead to spend every

visiting researcher at the University of Southern California. "I thought it would be a good idea to take advantage of his research abilities," says prosecutor Dale Kalberman.

White cliffs forever

Glamourously ignoring quips that she will be heard gurgling before any hostilities in the Gulf, Dame Vera Lynn last night said that she might consider singing for the troops in Saudi Arabia should she be asked. "I coped with those kind of conditions in Burma in the last war," she said at the launch of her latest book, *Unsung Heroines*.

So far the MoD has made no formal announcement about sending entertainers to divert the Desert Rats, but as the most famous booster of military morale, Dame Vera, now 73, might expect an approach. "The first thing I'd do is have a dozen different imitations," she says. "I never have to practice my voice. I keep it in shape with lots of charity performances."

Although hardly rivalling the Queen or Mrs Thatcher for glamour, Bernie Grant MP cut a dash in Nigerian costume at yesterday's state opening of Parliament. Not one of nature's shrinking violets, Grant took the trouble to issue a fashion note in the form of a press release explaining that the trousers, undershirt, hat and robe were traditionally worn by chiefs of the Yoruba tribe. With engaging honesty, the information concluded: "Thanks are due to the Queen of Sheba's boutique of Balham, south London, for supplying this outfit."

bitious we felt weren't right. The trouble with charity sales is that it's always the same people who get asked to give and to buy every time. I feel very irritated by them being wound up like this, when we were only trying to help."

Nodding donkey

Margaret Thatcher, her early warning system seemed to fail on leadership challenges, might think Sir Anthony Meyer the last Tory MP to rally to her cause. But Sir Anthony has robustly defended her record in a public debate at Aberystwyth. The former "stalking horse" had to argue for Thatcherism against Labour and Welsh nationalist MPs when his fellow Tory, Nicholas Bennett, dropped out at the last minute.

"Nicholas is a Thatcherite loyalist, and a very good one," says Meyer, who was deselected by his local party for last year's election. "I gave his speech as well as mine. I based his speech on what I thought he would say about the prime minister."

But having done the decent thing Meyer then calmly delivered

1990

Saturday for the next four years engaged in medical enquiry.

Salahuddin will be metaphorically chained to the laboratory beach while he clocks up 1,750 hours of research into the viral origins of chronic fatigue syndrome. A former member of the National Institutes of Health AIDS laboratory, Salahuddin is now a



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE

Margaret Thatcher's leadership of the Conservative party is in the gift not of the country but of Conservative members of parliament. With that leadership under notional if not actual challenge these MPs seemed to have decided that her performance in the House of Commons yesterday would be critical to their loyalty. If they needed proof of Mrs Thatcher's extraordinary stamina and determination, proof they received.

The prime minister is fortunate to have a temperament that rises to a great parliamentary challenge. The more pressure she is under, the better she performs. Responding in yesterday's debate on the Queen's Speech to a diatribe from Neil Kinnock may seem a somewhat arbitrary test of fitness to lead, but it was a test that had been set by her own side. This was one of the crucial performances of her career, certainly the most testing since Nigel Lawson's resignation. She was on form.

Whatever the shortcomings of Mrs Thatcher's personality — her tactlessness, her stridency and her tendency to antagonise those she should count as friends — her dominance over the Commons is impressive. Mr Kinnock had some good lines. For a moment, he looked as if he had drawn blood over her differences with her foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd. But Mr Kinnock's style lacks the vital ingredient of a good speech, incisiveness. His sharp rocks are still buried under a screen of verbiage. As in the Westland debate in 1986 he left her off more lightly than he should have done.

Mrs Thatcher resisted the pleas of those who have told her to soften her personal presentation. That is not in her character. If there is any softness about the late-Thatcher style, it derives from her recent discovery of the weapon of wit. Above all, she was combative. The fact of her personality that can be so unappealing when directed at foreigners is what has made her so formidable in the House of Commons. Under similar pressure, the former Harold Macmillan would have seemed

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President Bush can take some comfort from the American mid-term election results. The Democrats consolidated their hold on both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Democrats also defeated candidates for whom Mr Bush had personally campaigned in the gubernatorial races in two important states, Florida and his elected home base, Texas. But the "free fall" in support for his party which Republican campaign managers were predicting less than a month ago failed to materialise.

Pre-election opinion polls found two thirds of voters more pessimistic about the future than for a decade, with three-quarters of them identifying government and politicians as the problem rather than the solution. That should have hurt the Republicans, the party which traditionally claims to be more competent in handling the economy. Yet Mr Bush's party lost far fewer seats than in 1982, the last mid-term election to take place during an economic recession. Voters, it turns out, may be revolted by Congress; they still tend to return their own sitting congressmen.

In the Senate, where 34 of the 100 seats were at stake, the Democrats added only one to their existing 55-member majority group. They made stronger gains in elections to the House, where all congressmen seek re-election every two years, gaining nine additional seats (including an unexpected win by a socialist in rock-ribbed Republican Vermont) to give them 267. In the traditionally volatile races for the state governorships, where 36 out of 50 were at stake, both sides took unexpected losses and the Republicans compensated for defeats in Florida and Texas by holding California, biggest of the sunbelt "superstates", against the charismatic Democrat, Dianne Feinstein, previously considered a possible candidate for the presidency.

The political significance of such small shifts in electoral fortune is larger in the US than in Europe. Shortly before the elections, the respected *Congressional Quarterly* estimated that of the 435 seats in the House, 215 Democrat and 138 Republican seats were "absolutely safe", leaving just over 80 to fight for. The "swing" in each race is therefore as significant as the result. There was some

alief and exhaustion; Lord Wilson would have merely drooped; Edward Heath would have floundered. Mrs Thatcher appeared to draw comfort and strength from the inept baying of the Opposition benches. Her repartee was even more fluent than the words of her script. This was good political leadership, a general out in front of the troops, single-handed.

If it was magnificent, was it war — war as modern electoral campaigns are fought? Mrs Thatcher's performance may persuade her backbenchers that any leadership contest would be futile and destructive. Seldom can any leader have looked less like ceding defeat gracefully. But for Mrs Thatcher to stave off a challenge merely by threatening to unleash the dogs of intra-party strife is hardly the best way to secure loyalty through to the next election. If that is not until 1992, there is one more opportunity to challenge her, next year, and there are plenty of potential rebels skulking in their tents, determined to fight another day.

The only way Mrs Thatcher can secure her position without question is by demonstrating that she knows how to win the country in 1992. That means more than a series of points victories in prize fights with Mr Kinnock at Westminster. In the world outside, she has actively to court popularity, to narrow the gap in the opinion polls with Labour, and to win back those at the Conservative grass roots who showed in Eastbourne that they are just not satisfied with her leadership.

Unlike her predecessors, Mrs Thatcher's stomach for a fight after many years in office has not shrunk. But she is far from out of trouble. Even in the television era, elections are not decided in the House of Commons. Mrs Thatcher's own speeches when she was leader of the Opposition were ineffectual, yet she won an election. Tonight's by-election results may once again unsettle Tory MPs. But their leader has shown how an effective performance in the House can rally a doubting party. It is an indispensable political skill.

DAMAGE LIMITED

evidence of the predicted "anti-incumbent" backlash. Both Democrats and Republican incumbents suffered from public pessimism about the economy and irritation with the autumn's prolonged wrestling over the federal budget. Mr Bush, however, already operated under the handicap of an exceptionally strong Democratic grip on both houses of the legislature. Even small losses will make governing by cross-party consensus, his preferred method, marginally more difficult.

Extrapolating trends from American elections, where local issues may influence choice as much as national ones, is dangerous. (One Democratic congressman, Jolene Unsoeld, was considered vulnerable because he wanted to protect the spotted owl in a district of Washington state heavily dependent on the lumber industry.) The results appear to leave Mr Bush as the leading contender for the 1992 presidential elections, although with warning flags placed along his route.

If the federal budget is not seen by then to be under firm control, the effect of the separation of powers between President and Congress on the governability of America could become a decisive issue. But some results, notably the tax revolt in New Jersey which nearly cost Senator Bill Bradley his seat, should prompt the Democrats to moderate their class-war rhetoric about soaking the rich. Across the country voters appeared less interested in the moral controversies of recent years such as abortion law, than in cautious policies, at federal and state level, to improve the economy. Such attitudes could help Mr Bush.

To the outside world, the oddest aspect of the campaign was the small role played by the confrontation in the Gulf. The truism that American elections are won and lost on domestic issues was proof even to the deployment of 230,000 American troops in Saudi Arabia and the signs that fighting is inevitable. Mr Bush may not have succeeded in preparing Americans for battle, but nothing so far suggests the emergence of a "Vietnam factor" to cripple the White House. Mr Bush is free to turn his attention to the most pressing item on the international agenda: countering Iraqi aggression.

The political significance of such small shifts in electoral fortune is larger in the US than in Europe. Shortly before the elections, the respected *Congressional Quarterly* estimated that of the 435 seats in the House, 215 Democrat and 138 Republican seats were "absolutely safe", leaving just over 80 to fight for. The "swing" in each race is therefore as significant as the result. There was some

RED ROUTES FOR RED BUSES

In an otherwise lacklustre legislative programme, Cecil Parkinson's transport department will take the lion's share of the last full session before a general election. The most substantial of his projects is likely to be the road traffic bill, under which some 300 miles of "red routes" will be designated within the capital under a new London "traffic director", answerable only to Mr Parkinson.

The scheme envisages strictly enforced parking prohibitions along the thoroughfares chosen. Delivery vehicles would normally be expected to use side roads. Heavy penalties, perhaps including spot fines, swift clamping and the forcible removal of parked cars would keep all available traffic lanes in constant use.

There will be intense argument over which roads should be designated, since the village-like character of some London neighbourhoods could disappear. Apart from local objections to the red routes, some of which have already surfaced over the pilot route from Archway to Commercial Road, doubts remain about the proposed scheme. Common sense suggests that traffic often expands to fill the space provided. The choking of the M25 since its opening has fuelled such scepticism.

Mr Parkinson believes there is no causal connection between road improvements and the rise in car numbers, and that the diversion of commercial traffic on to ring roads like the M25 has reduced congestion in central London. Be that as it may, the burden on the roads will continue to grow. Commuters will start to drive as they find public transport ever less reliable, tourists will increasingly bring in or hire their own cars, and nearly half of Londoners have yet to acquire cars at all.

Second-car owners are tending to drive to schools or shops where previously they would have walked or taken a bus.

Even an ever-expanding red route network could not cope with patently unrestricted demand: cities such as Los Angeles and Houston, designed for the car age, have found congestion just as acute as London. The only sensible answer is to shift preferences radically towards public transport, by improving service quality while accepting the congestion of car routes. In a letter to *The Times* last July, the former chairman of London Transport, Sir Keith Bright, proposed that special red routes — for buses only during rush hours — should run along roads approximating to the Underground network. Other vehicles would be banned at such times; a simplified and cashless fare collection system would avoid long queues at bus stops.

Sir Keith's more drastic proposal deserves to be incorporated into Mr Parkinson's bill. Such bus-only routes, combining the existing bus lanes and the new concept of the red route, could handle a much greater proportion of commuter movement than at present. London's buses, hitherto the Cinderellas of metropolitan transport, could find their Prince Charming in the new traffic director — though it is a sad comment on this government's obsessive centralism that he should have to be responsible to Whitehall.

Mr Parkinson deserves only two cheers for his red routes. The third and most resounding cheer must wait until the red buses, which should have the first claim to run on these routes, are given their rightful priority.

Right and reason in a 'just war'

From the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, Clifton Longley's article ("Going by the Aquinas book", November 3) has brought to the attention of your readers the principles which would determine whether or not military intervention in the Gulf could be morally justified. What, then, is the present position?

It is my conviction that a moral case can be made to justify a limited military action in the Gulf only if two fundamental conditions are satisfied. The first is that all other avenues to a possible solution have been tried and have failed, and therefore limited military action is truly the last resort. It would be wrong, for instance, to abort any constructive internationally supported initiative by embarking prematurely on a military strike.

Secondly, there must be a real prospect not only of achieving the just objectives sought by the use of limited military force, but also of not causing in the process physical and political damage out of all proportion to the original injustice.

Both these conditions are extremely difficult to assess, but those in authority, who alone are in a position to make the decisive assessment, have a duty to be guided by them. A failure to observe that duty would certainly render a military intervention immoral.

Moreover, there is a further consideration of a different order. The success of the United Nations in the formulation and execution of the international response to Iraqi aggression is already a unique achievement. The end of the cold war has allowed an unprecedented degree of international co-operation and trust to develop.

This is of potentially immense significance, but is as yet fragile. It will therefore be of great importance that the authority of the United Nations is seen to have endorsed any direct military intervention which may be undertaken.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER DERRICK,
6 St Michael's Road,
Wallington, Surrey.
November 5.

From the Right Reverend Mark Green

Sir, The House of Bishops of the General Synod, meeting recently, found it impossible to agree on a statement which might have given guidance on the Christian attitude to possible war in the Gulf (report, October 22).

This is not surprising. The 50 or so members obviously have conflicting views about the morality of war in general, and a Gulf war in particular. Not surprising, but still regrettable. They could have agreed on a statement outlining two alternative Christian stances. Nothing would have been lost by such honesty, for in moral questions there is not always one blindingly right course of action and one which is plainly evil.

Be that as it may, they could, unanimously, have urged the nation to use next Sunday as a day not only of grateful remembrance, but of fervent prayer for peace in the Gulf by diplomatic means. Such a message would give Remembrance Sunday a new and urgent relevance. Even now it is not too late.

Yours faithfully,
MARK GREEN,
13 Archery Court, Archery Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
November 5.

CBI attack opposed

From Lord Hanson

Sir, As Hanson plc is a member of the CBI, I write to make it clear that the reported criticism by its Director General of the government in his closing speech in Glasgow (report, November 7), does not reflect the views of a great many industrialists in this country.

The role of the CBI is accurately to represent British business. This government has achieved immeasurable benefits for everyone in industry over the last ten years and now that the country is facing a downturn the last thing we need is statements which can be seen as

attacks from what might ordinarily be perceived to be industry's natural supporters.

I do not believe there is a senior member of the CBI who does not know in his heart that it is essential for a Conservative government to be returned the next time round and to continue its achievements in the future.

If Mr Hanson persists with these statements it will have appeared that we have removed our support when it was most needed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HANSON,
1 Grosvenor Place, SW1.
November 7.

EC referendum

From Mr William Wilson

Sir, We must be the only country that was only allowed to vote on whether or not to join the European Community after we had joined it. Ever since then the development of democratic accountability in the Community has lagged far behind moves towards greater integration.

After all, who elected Jacques Delors, to whom is he really accountable, and what do we do about it if we do not like what he is saying? The European Parliament is not equipped to subject the Commission to proper accountability while the majority of voters cannot name their MEP.

The government is now under pressure to agree a date to achieve

a single economic and monetary policy, a single foreign policy, a single central bank and a single currency in Europe. By any standards these would constitute major changes in the way this country is governed.

No party has an unambiguous policy on these issues, and to vote on them at a general election where there are other matters to be decided would only obscure any mandate for action. Surely a referendum is long overdue? Any reluctance to give the voters a chance to express a clear preference would undermine the authority of those on both sides of the argument.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WILSON,
7 Rutland House,
Marlborough Road, W8.

Premature poppies?

From Mr W. A. P. Conran

Sir, Each year the wearing of

remembrance poppies starts earlier, even cabinet ministers were seen thus adorned during a television interview today. What is the reason for the phenomenon?

To wear a poppy on November 2 does not mean that one remembers better or more deeply than others who wait until, say, the 10th; if anything it waters it down to something superficial or even

sentimental. Perhaps the media could

arrange a truce next year, under

which poppies are not worn until

two or three days before Remembrance Day, thus concentrating

minds on more remembrance

than on getting in first. Poppies

might mean more than to most of

us.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. P. CONRAN,

The Old Rectory, Risby,

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

November 2.

Privatising ports

From the Chairman of Blyth Harbour Commission

Sir, From reading Jonathan Prynn and Ross Tieman's article (Business News, November 1) your readers may be forgiven for thinking that trust ports could not obtain powers similar to Associated British Ports without seeking privatisation and that privatisation is therefore needed in order to compete.

Further, Patrick McLoughlin's

statement, "Taxpayers must be

repaid", gives the impression that

most British ports have received

vast sums from the UK Government,

by way of grants and aid (in a

similar way to continental ports).

These impressions are grossly misleading.

Mr Parkinson deserves only two cheers for his red routes. The third and most resounding cheer must wait until the red buses, which should have the first claim to run on these routes, are given their rightful priority.

In order to face the inter-port

competition mentioned in the article, the port of Blyth promoted

its own private bill and in 1986

obtained an ability to trade on

similar lines to Associated British

Ports. Rather than seek privatisation, we provided for an increase in our borrowing powers adequate to satisfy our future needs.

In this way we were able to

concentrate on the main business

of operating and developing a

successful harbour with the first

call on profits being for reinvest

ment rather than dividend. This is

in line with our statutory obliga

tions to improve, maintain and

manage the port and provide the

"competitive edge" necessary for

success in a highly competitive

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his life will keep it for life eternal. St John 12: 25 GNS

BIRTHS

ABRAHAM - On November 6th 1990, in Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Jackie and Clive, a daughter, Olivia Joanne.

BARTON - On October 26th 1990, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Sheila (nee Senior) and Andrew, a daughter, Sophie Camilla, a sister, Abigail Linda, and a son, Christopher.

BAXTER - On November 7th 1990, in Hoop Kona, to Kelly and Angus, a son, Robert, a brother, for Harriet, and a daughter, for Carol.

CONNOR - On October 15th 1990, in Elaine (nee Tuck) and Terry, two sons, George and Christopher.

de CHALMADIER - On October 18th, in Paris, to Lucie (neé Perrot) and Pierre André, a son, Sébastien, and a daughter, for Sophie.

GOLDBERG - On November 10th 1990, at The Portland Hospital, to Alan & Yvette Goldberg, a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Chloe Catherine.

LOVETT - On November 7th 1990, in London, to Peter and Margaret, a son, Robert, a daughter, a son, Robert, a daughter, a son, Richard, and a daughter, a son, Peter.

MACKENZIE - On November 1st, at Queen Charlotte's, to Emma (nee Liddle) and Christopher, a son, Christopher, and a daughter, for Alexander and Thomas.

MASON - On November 1st, to Caroline (nee Bridger) and David, a son, Joshua (John) Don Brett.

SINFIELD - On November 6th 1990, to Joanne (nee Lowe) and Christopher, a son, Christopher, and a daughter, a son, Peter.

WILLIAMS - On November 6th 1990, at Treliske Hospital, Truro, to Joanne (nee Lowe) and Christopher, a son, Christopher, and a daughter, for Sophie, Henry, and Charles.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GOVINDARAJ - On November 8th 1940 at Greenford, Middlesex, Bill to Anu, now living at Hove, Sussex.

DEATHS

BELLINQUIST - On November 8th, at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, after a short illness, Alfred Bellinquist, 81, a retired businessman. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on November 12th at 11.30 am.

BENNETT - On November 8th 1990, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Christopher, a son, Paul, Theodore Charles, a brother for Philip and Anne, and a daughter, for Christopher.

BLAKE - On November 8th 1990, in London, to Christopher, a son, Paul, and a daughter, for Christopher.

BLAZER - On November 8th 1990, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Christopher, a son, Paul, and a daughter, for Christopher.

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CROZIER-COLE

- On November 6th, tragically in a house fire at Parkgate, Wirral, a deeply beloved husband of Eluned, Janice, of 202, Jeremy, Louise and Tracy and brother of Nicola. Bel and Donations to be made to Parkgate Church Organ Fund.

DAWES - On November 6th 1990, Harold Edward Dawes, a son, a long time, aged 82 years. Funeral at Springfield Crematorium, Liverpool, on Monday November 12th at 3 pm. No flowers or donations, please. Donations to be made to Cleckheaton North or Aspin Boys' Schools.

DEAN - On Wednesday November 7th, peacefully at home, Richard E.C. (Dick) Dean, Father of Sarah, and David, and Grandson of Sarah, and a beloved grandfather. Will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

DEAN - On November 7th, 1990, at Queen Charlotte's, to Emma (nee Liddle) and Christopher, and Keith (nee Tuck) and Tom (nee George) Lister.

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On the trail of a hairy man story

When we set out to make a film about the Chinese Wildman – said to be a 6ft, two-legged red-haired creature – it was with equal amounts of scepticism and fascination.

So frequent are reports of such a creature that there is a national institution, called the Wildman Society, based in Wan An, a small town halfway down the Yangtze River in southern China, devoted to collating an impressive, if odd, array of information on the thousands of reported sightings.

The collection includes picked hands and feet, said to be from a Wildman but which transpired to be from an unknown monkey, huge clumps of bright red, so-called Wildman hair, and the skeletal remains of a small child, with a skull that looked half-human, half-ape.

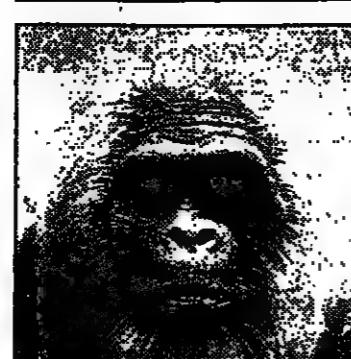
Professor Liu Minzhang, who runs the society, claimed it was the result of a human and Wildman mating and although none of us could explain the reason for the deformation, we were suspicious, especially when we were refused permission to film it.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the Wildman is its popularity in China as a living legend. More remarkably, eminent Chinese scientists have, over the years, seriously investigated claims of its existence and continue to do so.

They have even built up convincing arguments for the origins of the creature, claiming that it is a descendant of the *Gigantopithecus*, the greatest ape known to have roamed central southern China half million years ago.

The Chinese Academy of Science has a long history of work in the

China has its own version of the Yeti. Geraldine Easter reports on her search for the creature for a television film



Model of *Gigantopithecus*, said to be the ancestor of Wildman

field. In 1977, the academy organised an expedition of more than 110 scientists, who spent a year combing the fields of remotest Shennongjia, in response to a reported sighting of a Wildman. Today, scientists from Huazhong and Fudan universities in Shanghai are analysing supposed Wildman hairs, with controversial results. At Huazhong, using a scanning electron microscope to look inside the hair and a transmitting electron microscope to analyse the external structure, they examined four different samples of hair, comparing

them with human and animal hair. One was a monkey's and the other two were completely different to human and animal hairs, with an internal structure similar to that of modern man, but an external structure similar to that of an animal.

But it was the results from the respected Fudan university, where scientists used a sophisticated analytical technique called PDXE (proton-induced x-ray emission), to analyse several elements contained within the hair simultaneously, that called for further investigation. The scientists analysed two samples of hair supposedly from a Wildman. These were compared with eight human hairs and hairs from all the commonly found animals in China.

Scientists at Fudan say six of the "Wildman" hairs were from other animals and one was human. The other six were significantly different to human and animal hair, having an iron-to-zinc ratio 54 times higher than human hair and eight times higher than general primates. The scientists concluded not only that this was the first scientific evidence for the existence of an unknown creature, but that the creature was an unknown higher primate.

Is this the first real evidence for the existence of the Wildman in China? During our research for the film, we collected three supposed Wildman hairs and asked Professor Xianzhou Zeng at Fudan university for an analysis. Two, he said, had the same high zinc-to-iron ratio as the so-called Wildman hairs.

We then gave them to Dr Ranjeet Sakhni, from the School of Physics and Space Research at the University of Birmingham, who Dr found a significant difference in the iron-to-zinc



Wanted poster: artist's impression of a Wildman put on show in rural China by film-makers asking if anyone had seen the creature

ratio – about 30 times. Dr Sakhni comments: "All we can conclude is that these hairs, which are claimed by some to be from the Wildman, show entirely different elemental characteristics from normal human hair, which is extremely difficult to explain."

Brian McCarthy, from the British Textile Technology Group, which has a history of working on the Turin shroud, has also looked at the hairs under a scanning electron

microscope. The results show the hairs to be either human or from a higher primate, leaving unanswered the question of whether the Wildman exists.

Our next step should be conclusive. A DNA analysis to be carried out by Ohio state university in America will consider whether the hair is from any known creature.

• The author is the producer of *On the Trail of the Chinese Wildman*, on Channel 4 this Saturday at 8pm.

Dinosaur destroyer could strike again

THE apparently sudden extinction of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago has been linked with a meteorite impact. New research suggests the meteorite was a fragment of a giant comet that ran amok through the solar system, spattering the planets with dust and debris.

The meteorite theory was proposed after unusually large concentrations of the metal iridium were found across the world in sediments from the end of the Cretaceous period.

Iridium, which is chemically related to platinum, is

extremely rare in the Earth's crust, but is more common in meteorites. So the iridium was interpreted as the global fallout from a meteorite impact.

Meteorites contain other strange things besides iridium. Last year Dr Meixius Zhao and Dr Jeffrey Bada, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California, announced the discovery of peculiar organic chemicals in iridium-rich sediment in Denmark. These chemicals were

published in today's *Nature* magazine, suggesting that the iridium and amino acids came to rest in Denmark in different circumstances, although both came ultimately from the same source, a giant comet entering the inner solar system towards the end of the Cretaceous period.

Dr Zahra and Dr Grinspoon think that a Cretaceous comet, if big enough, could have showered the Earth with enough debris to be detectable

65 million years later. This would explain the rain of amino acids, preserved both above and below the iridium layer.

There is, of course, no guarantee that a giant comet could not strike again. A mysterious asteroid called Chiron, discovered in 1977 orbiting beyond Saturn, has now been found to have a small comet-like tail.

A new analysis of Chiron's

orbit by researchers at the

University of Manchester, also published in today's *Nature*, shows it to be highly unstable. Chiron, far from being a quiet asteroid, was very probably a giant comet until a few thousand years ago, and may well resume life as a relatively new comet.

At 125 miles in diameter it

contains enough mass to make

10,000 comets the size of

Halley's Comet. The effects

that even one of these bodies

would have if it struck the

Earth would be enormous.

HENRY GEE

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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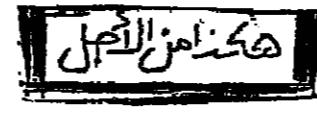
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Tensions fuel pay rises in the Gulf

JOBS SCENE
Intergraph, Wang VS, Amdahl and IBM, to join International Airports Projects' research and development operation in Jeddah on the Red Sea for two-year renewable contracts.

Companies are increasingly recruiting from within Britain as many expatriates, particularly Americans, leave the Middle East because of the military and political tensions. "We are finding Saudi Arabian companies are having to increase salaries by at least 15 per cent above what they would normally offer because of the current situation," says Roger Allington, the managing director of Dalroth and Partners, a London-based recruitment agency.

Saudi Aramco, one of the world's largest oil and gas-producing companies, based in Dhahran, on the Gulf, is seeking materials and engineering analysts with experience of IBM, mainframes and programming languages such as Cobol, PL/I and Fortran. It is offering the salary premium as well as emphasising the traditional facilities such as golf, sailing and other activities to try to attract IT staff to the region for indefinite contracts. Although the pay rates for a typical two-year contract have recently been rising, they are still not as high as in the early Eighties.

"Salaries are not as astronomical as they were ten years ago, when IT staff working in the Middle East could comfortably double their British pay," says Graham Francis, the group sales director of the Myriad recruitment consultancy, which is seeking a dozen staff for a management consultancy in Jeddah and Riyadh.

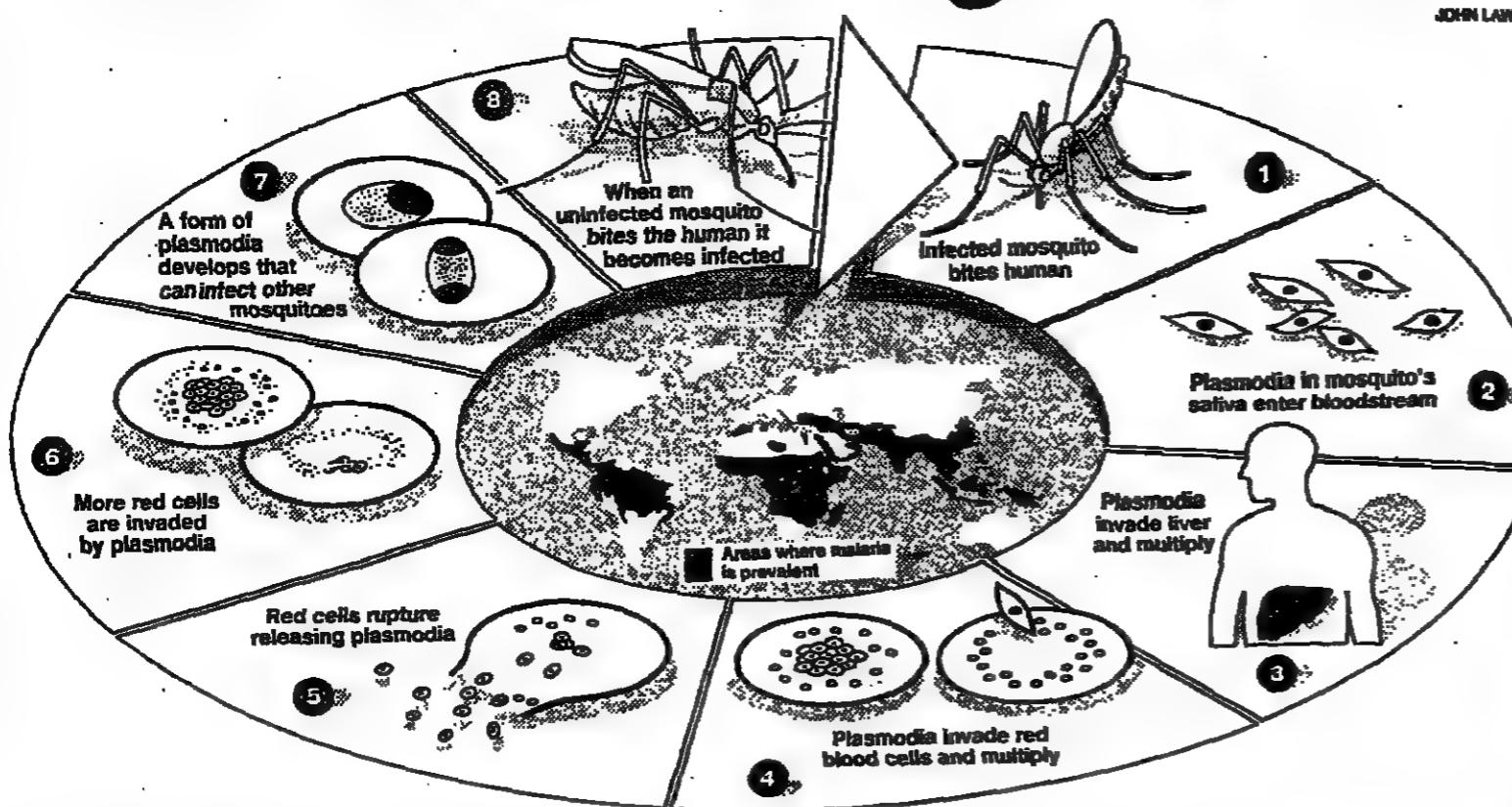
"Part of the job of foreign staff was to train the locals. Now that many are trained, salaries are only about 50 to 70 per cent higher than those paid in Britain." United Computer Services, based in Saudi Arabia, is recruiting more than 12 categories of IT staff through Dalroth for a local company. It wants a large number of British staff, trained in

LESLIE TILLEY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

War on the winged killers

JOHN LAWSON



As attempts to defeat malaria seem to be failing, Thomson Prentice finds researchers who are mounting new studies to beat the deadly menace

The circle starts after dusk when the female mosquito, hungry for blood, comes to feed. The anticoagulant in its fangs contains parasites that will flourish when she has gone. The next mosquito that arrives to bite the same victim becomes infected with the parasites and takes them on to her next target.

The sequence, repeated endlessly, is one of the most vicious circles in nature. The result is malaria, and the failure to break that circle is among the biggest frustrations of modern medicine. The disease has plagued mankind throughout history and kills between one and two million people a year, most of them infants in Africa. Another 270 million are infected. About 90 million new cases occur annually in more than 100 countries.

The classic symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, high fever and a severe headache. Malaria can strike the vital organs, and if it affects the brain it causes coma and convulsions. Casualties among British travellers to malarial areas are comparatively few; half a dozen or so deaths, and 2,000 sufferers a year. But among visitors to some parts of west Africa, the numbers have risen eightfold in the past few years. There is a simple, and sinister explanation. The bugs are beating the drugs.

A new drug to prevent or protect against malaria may take 15 years to develop at a cost of about £75 million. But, as the evidence of the past few decades shows, the parasites, called

plasmodia, need less time to rebuild their defences and develop resistance.

The latest, and one of the most powerful of these drugs is mefloquine, introduced two years ago. Already, resistance to it is being documented by doctors. Resistance to chloroquine, the standard treatment, is almost as widespread as the disease.

Thirty-five years ago, the World Health Organisation proclaimed its intention of eradicating malaria from the globe, rashly predicting that this could be achieved within five years. Despite huge efforts and temporary gains, the programme ended in humiliating defeat in the late Sixties. Inappropriate use of DDT and other insecticides and the overuse of drugs in the long run provided the parasites with stronger armour.

The war is all but lost, and Ralph Henderson, an assistant director of the WHO, candidly admits as much. "Until a universal tool such as a vaccine becomes available," he says, "we may have to put aside thoughts of controlling, let alone eradicating, malarial infection. We may have to step backwards for a while to see whether we can at least drastically reduce the number of deaths, mostly child deaths, from the disease."

Other options will have to be considered, Dr Henderson says. "The

actions of the drug may be changing, the parasites may be changing, or the ways in which individuals take their anti-malarial tablets over period of weeks during and after their trips may be an important factor."

The research is being supported by British Airways, which has a travel clinic at the hospital. The airline's interest is simple. "We want to fly more passengers to tropical areas, but we want them and our crews to have the best protection against illness," says Dr James Dunlop, the airline's head of international health services.

Airline crews are at risk even during the briefest night-time stopovers. An article in last month's *Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine* records that a flight attendant on a Swiss charter airline died of malaria during a refuelling stop in Dakar, Senegal.

Infected mosquitoes have been known to hitch a trip back to an aircraft's home base and cause malaria in unlucky individuals at or near airports. At least one such case has occurred at Heathrow, and others have been reported in Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Zurich.

Because the incubation period between infection and symptoms can be several weeks, travellers need to begin taking anti-malarial tablets a week or two before their journey, throughout the visit, and for at least four weeks afterwards. The drugs are far from perfect but with a successful vaccine at least ten years away, they are the best protection available.

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Should we cold-shoulder the bitter winter theory?

This year will test new methods of weather forecasting

This cycle is the quasi-biennial oscillation (QBO) in the prevailing winds of the equatorial stratosphere.

Although it has been known that the Fifties that these winds reverse direction about every 13 months, it was not until the Eighties that scientists noted differing behaviour patterns in certain features of the atmosphere during the two phases of the oscillation.

The cycle in question is not simple. It involves the conjunction of three roughly periodic phenomena. These are the 11-year cycle in solar activity (sunspots), an approximately biennial fluctuation in the upper atmosphere winds in the tropics, and a less regular variation in sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific.

Attempts to link weather fluctuations with sunspots have been a popular meteorological pursuit since 1843, when Heinrich Schwabe discovered that the number of sunspots occurred in a marked 11-year cycle.

In spite of the publication of

more than 1,000 scientific papers, the statistical judgement in the late Seventies was that there was little or no convincing evidence of significant or practically useful correlations between sunspot cycles and the weather.

But this was called into question in the Eighties by the discovery of a highly significant statistical link between solar activity and the clearest example of multi-annual periodic behaviour in the weather.

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HEALTH

Filling a gap in the market

The prime minister's evenly matched teeth are widely assumed to owe more to the skill of a dentist chosen by Saatchi & Saatchi than to Robert's genes or expert childhood care in Grantham.

Not only must a speech be rehearsed endlessly, but the mouth which makes it has to be able to withstand a prying television lens which will relay the sight of any damage to millions of households. Teeth implants are the latest of the many weapons available to those who are to keep a youthful oral appearance, and to avoid having a set of false teeth bubbling in a glass beside a Downing Street or White House bed.

Next time the remodelled politician fields questions on the National Health Service, confident that his perforation will not be spoilt by a nasty incident with his false teeth, he should be thankful that he was able to afford the cost. Titanium implants are not available on the NHS and cost a patient approximately £1,000 per tooth.

Dental implants were first used by the ancient Egyptians, but were very unreliable, even in the Fifties, when there was a 50 per cent failure rate. A dental implant is a metal device which is firmly implanted into the jawbone to provide an artificial root to which a replacement tooth or teeth can later be



Under the lens: Mrs Thatcher's teeth are the subject of speculation

attached by means of a connecting peg.

Until recently, epithelial scar tissue tended to grow around any implant and loosen it, but now that the implants are made of titanium, which is compatible with bone, they no longer stimulate the formation of scar tissue. Modern titanium implants become totally integrated into the jawbone, a process technically known as osseointegration, and are permanently fixed. New style implants have a 95 per cent success rate. Up to eight implants can be inserted into each jaw, the number depending on the size of the gap which has to be filled and the strength of the available bone. The implants are left buried under the gum, and temporary false teeth, for six months, after which x-rays are taken to

ensure that osseointegration is complete. Once integration has occurred matched teeth, or a bridge of teeth, can be fixed with a connecting peg to the implant and given normal good fortune and a decent toothbrush. Will last a lifetime. Implants are not recommended for diabetics, who are prone to infection, or for haemophiliacs or other people with clotting defects.

Implants are invaluable for fixing false teeth that have become loose and unstable as the underlying jaw shrinks over the years. Two implants, judiciously placed, can act as stabilisers for a wandering plate, with the result that many elderly people who had loose teeth can return to eating apples or even corn on the cob.

Salmon still safely in the pink

One of the joys of the past decade has been that salmon can be eaten without guilt; it is now relatively cheaper than herring and, as it is so rich in vitamins and the fish oils which may protect against coronary heart disease, eczema and even arthritis, its consumption can be excused on medical grounds. Recent press reports have seemed to erode this excuse and have suggested that salmon might contain unacceptable high levels of dichlorvos, a pesticide used to control sea lice in fish farms.

Analysis of the fish has also revealed traces of the antibiotic, oxytetracycline, and research workers have hinted that the superb pink colour may be due more to canthaxanthin, a dye added to the fish food, rather than to any natural plankton it might have fed off while swimming in some northern sea. The



another batch of parents confused by the use of the term "survival" abandon a topical steroid cream or potion, which is chemically quite different and which plays such an important part in the treatment of their child's eczema. The spokeswoman added that under-treatment with topical steroids, a mistake that can lead to a permanently damaged skin, is a more widespread problem than the occasional cases of side-effects associated with the use of a steroid cream which is inappropriately potent, or applied for too long to the wrong area.

Selecting the correct strength of steroid cream is important to the treatment of any patient, and the correct strength is the one which will bring the inflammation under control quickly.

Medication is only part of the treatment of eczema. The use of emollients (oils) in the bath to prevent dry skin, and a change of lifestyle so as to avoid factors which can trigger an attack of eczema, are every bit as important as the chemist's cream. It is little use covering a patient with steroid preparations, pouring oils into their baths, or prescribing antihistamines to alleviate the scratching if the family cat is allowed to nestle down on the child's eiderdown at night.

Steroids: a question of strength

At first sight there seems little obvious connection between the over-muscled bodies of Randy Barnes, "Butch" Reynolds and Ben Johnson, the three banned Olympic athletes who have risked health, sex life and longevity to achieve passing glory on the games field, and the eczematous child scratching him or herself raw while the rest of the world sleeps. But last week a spokeswoman for the National Eczema Society said that every time there is a scandal involving the illicit use of anabolic steroids by athletes

Television's blood test

Can watching hospital dramas damage your health? As *Medics* takes on *Casualty*, Liz Gill feels the programme-makers' pulse

Eagle-eyed viewers might care to play "spot the doctor's hands" in tomorrow night's episode of *Casualty* on BBC1. The aim is to guess the point at which, by clever editing, the hands wielding the scalpel or suturing the wound belong, not to the actor, but to Dr David Williams, renal registrar at St Peter's Hospital in London and medical adviser to the series.

The use of such experts as Dr Williams, plus some startlingly realistic special effects, has made *Casualty* probably the most authentic-looking hospital drama to date. But although it may seem a far cry from *Emergency - Ward 10* in 1957, where suffering was discreetly screened, the difference is mainly of degree: *Casualty*, like all its predecessors, depends on an apparently insatiable appetite among British television audiences for all things medical.

Next Wednesday Granada launches its latest contribution to the genre with *Medics*, a six-part series based on the lives of four final-year students and two young doctors.

Dr Williams, who also acted as a consultant to *Medics*, says: "The common thread with all these programmes is that people are fascinated by their own bodies and those of others. We are all so inquisitive about what goes on behind closed curtains, and how other people cope with misfortune and tragedy."

What is or is not shown on *Casualty* is largely a matter of judgment. Dr Williams says he would "show it all. But I do talk to friends who are not doctors, and they think it gets a bit much sometimes."

Peter Norris, the producer of *Casualty*, balked at showing a spleen being removed, and also at allowing an actor to give blood: "They said it would save make-up a fortune but you have to draw the line somewhere."

David Filkin, the editor of *QED*, the BBC's science documentary series, says: "There's always an element of anxiety about how much of an operation an audience can watch, but on the whole viewers are much more accepting than you would imagine."

Fiction tends to be more popular - *Casualty* regularly draws 12 million viewers - but some non-fiction can come close: *Jimmy's*, for instance, or *Hospital Watch*. Mr Filkin's own *Bodymatters*, a half-hour show in which telegenetic doctors used giant models to show how the body works, had audiences of eight or nine million.

Over the past 20 years, he says, the medical profession has become increasingly co-operative and audiences increasingly sophisticated. He believes that one of the reasons cancer can be discussed openly these days is because television has pushed back the boundaries.

It would be foolish to say that nobody's hypochondriacs have ever been fed, or anxieties heightened, but we have to live in the real world, and it's better to know than to fantasise," he says. "There's no evidence to suggest that anyone has been put off seeking treat-

ment, whereas understanding and awareness can give someone the confidence to seek it."

The next big challenge, Mr Filkin believes, is mental illness.

"There is still a lot of prejudice, and we still have some distance to go before we can make it like cancer, something that just happens and is not a disgrace."

Joan Shenton, the director of Meditel Productions, which makes investigative documentaries on health subjects for ITV and Channel 4, believes television can provide an antidote to what she calls "consensus medicine". Her company made the controversial programme which questioned the link between the HIV virus and Aids; another examined current thinking on dietary fats. "We are aiming to reach the consumer of health services and products. We try to take a critical look, challenge some of the assumptions and perhaps explode some of the myths."

A recent programme called *Impotence - 1 in 10 Men* prompted, she says, "an amazing response. We had to keep the phone lines going for four days instead of four hours. It was a real taboo breaker."

The extent to which television influences human behaviour remains largely a matter of debate. Occasionally it seems possible to measure cause and effect. When a character in *EastEnders* found she had a breast lump a couple of

years ago, two doctors wrote to the *British Medical Journal* to say that the number of patients at their breast clinic in the weeks immediately following the episode had almost doubled.

On another occasion there were suggestions that Angie Wan's overdose in the same soap opera had led to copycat attempts at suicide. A subsequent study by Dr Stephen Platt, a medical sociologist with the Medical Research Council in Glasgow, found the link not proven: "The evidence of a fictional programme leading to imitation is extremely thin. There has only been one study suggesting it does, although it is admittedly a very powerful one."

This research stemmed from a German television drama in which a young man killed himself on a railway line. The six episodes looked at the story from a different perspective, with the suicide incident repeated at the beginning of each one. "Not only did the suicide rate go up significantly," Dr Platt says, "but the increase was confined to young men using that method. When the programme was repeated a couple of years later, the same thing happened."

Lobbyists are generally keen to get their cause on television - Mr Norris is regularly approached by campaigners "for every condition known to man". He is not averse to including an unusual illness - the story about the patient with brittle bones in this week's episode of *Casualty* is the result of a mother's letter - providing they are suitable for an accident and emergency drama. Seeing their problem aired on television may, he thinks, bring some solace to sufferers and promote greater understanding and tolerance: the tenor of the programme is usually sympathetic.

Although *Medics* has been shot in a real hospital, its advance publicity says it is going to avoid the "stark realities" and concentrate instead on the "loves, fears, ideals and desires" of its main characters.

Doctors tend to get an image boost out of television. One American study found that for every bad doctor in peak-time TV drama there were 19 goodie. The ratios might not be so high on British television, but the glamour persists.

Gub Neal, the producer of *Medics* (who comes from a medical family himself), says: "If you humanise doctors, what I hope

you are doing is increasing admiration for them rather than decreasing it."

Dr Pat Troop, the director of public health for Cambridge Health Authority, welcomes more realistic portrayals. "Some programmes still put doctors on a pedestal, but a lot tend to be less idealised. If you can give people confidence that doctors are human and can be talked to, that is no bad thing." But one-sided programmes about particular ap-

peals or treatments tend to annoy her: "Sometimes the evidence for success is not as sound as it might be, or is no better than the alternatives, but it gets patients worrying that something exists and they are not getting it."

Do doctors themselves watch medical dramas or documentaries? Dr Troop thinks not - "they watch escapist television to get away from all that".

Medics begins on ITV next Wednesday at 9pm.

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FICTION

Hot scene in small town

John Nicholson

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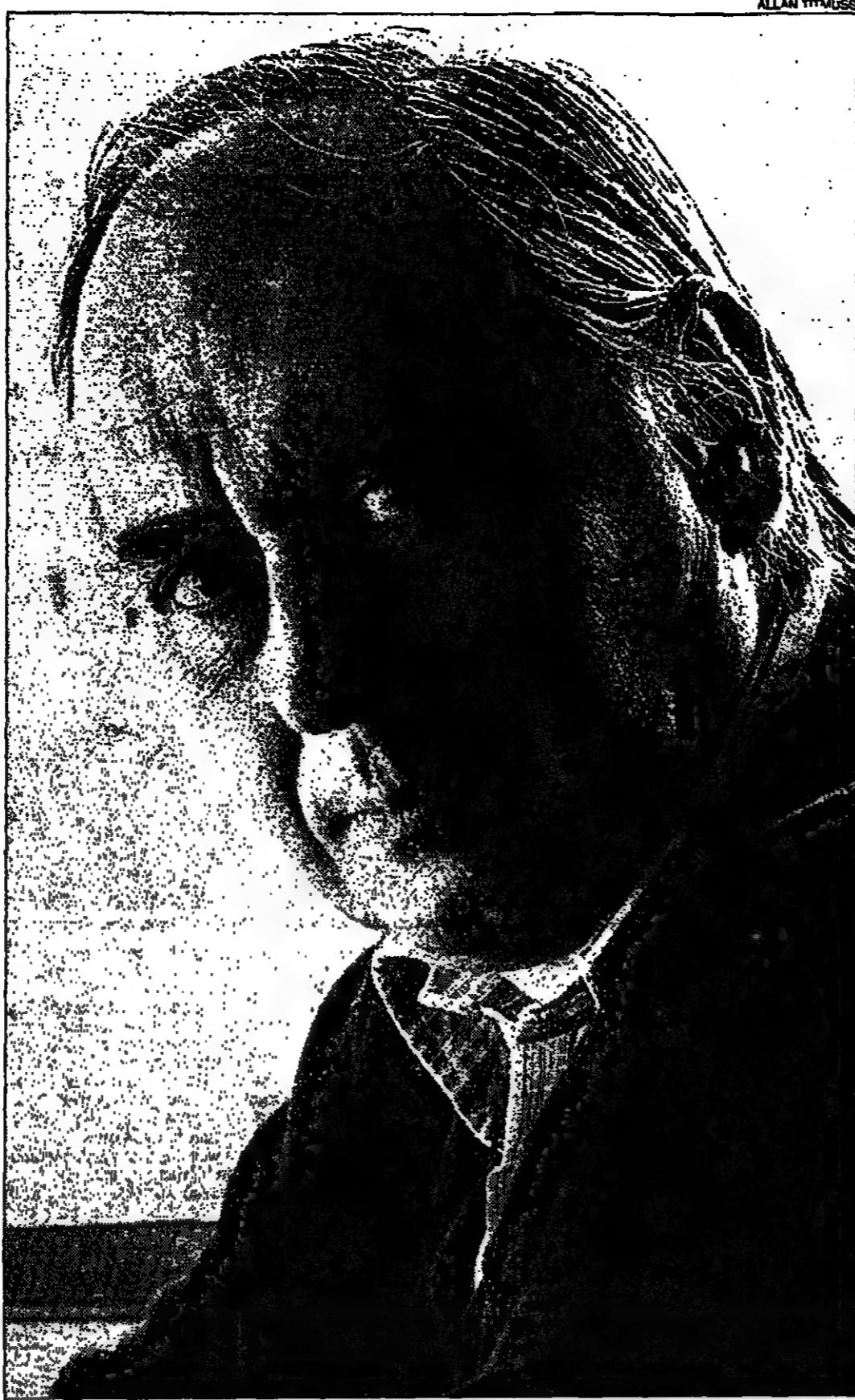
His role in Wolf's life is more ambiguous. Over-qualified to be a roadie, he handles most matters technical, and acts as ambassador between the singer and Hadja, who doubles as girlfriend and manager. Their frequently revering Svengali/Tribal relationship provides the book's pivot. It would also be a recipe for commercial disaster were Hadja not omniscient.

He is one of those devastating people who are convinced they can make happen whatever they want to. So when a young Iranian woman acquaintance holes up with a fundamentalist Hadja calls in the police, on the grounds that he must be holding her against her will. Hearing the woman declare her intention to marry the man, Hadja is momentarily deflated, but soon comes up with a rationalisation. Less easy to explain away is Wolf's affair with a young student admirer. Instead she takes a lover of her own, rightly calculating the effect of such an action on Wolf's garrulous ego.

Duncan Round is a protégé. So is his mother Josie, who is at last preparing to break away from the intransigent Tom. To keep the pot bubbling, Tom lets it be known that he would be happy to abandon his preference for bimbos to accommodate Norma's occasional need for a man, if it suits her. It does not.

The real glory of Gee lies in his characterisation. He's extravagant with his gift, creating here some two dozen fully rounded personae. As a result, every sub-plot grips – and there are plenty of them. This is a splendid book, beautifully thought out, and delivered with a delicate balance between traditional narrative form and a more trickily allusive contemporary style.

Hugo Hamilton is another elusive writer – elusive, too, and distinctly evocative. *Surrogate City* is his first novel. Set in Berlin in the 1970s, it tells the story of a young Irish woman's search for the man whose child she is carrying. Helen's account of the *Boat* and *Clyde* existence she and Dieter enjoyed back in Ireland is greatly to the taste of Alan, a compatriot jack of most trades, currently servicing one of Berlin's brightest rock stars, Wolf Ebers. Alan becomes Helen's lover. They both find sex quite funny.



J. G. Ballard's free-fall metaphysics and gruesome wit of outer space and inner time zones

Infinite space – with bad dreams

Victoria Glendinning on short spells and divagations from our witty wizard of the fifth dimensions

The creation of a united Europe, so long desired and so bitterly contested, had certain unexpected consequences. J. G. Ballard's story "The Largest Theme Park in the World" will reassure our prime minister about sovereignty; after some bizarre international coalescing, everyone rushes home to "reinstate a forgotten Europe of nations", each bristling to guard its own frontiers, tariff barriers, and insularity. Actually this is not a real story at all, it's a scenario, with no individual characters – as if Ballard were observing the behaviour of populations from a space capsule. As indeed he is.

The 14 stories in this book were mostly written in the past few years, with a few dating from the 1970s. Short stories are short cuts into a writer's mind; they are repositories of condensed obsession in a way that novels, even brilliant Ballard's own, are not. Like one of his characters, Ballard (in print) has "hot blood and cold heart". The only act of love in the story is a crazed astronaut aspires to fly without wings.

Ballard has studied medicine, and was in the RAF; his narrators are doctors, astronauts, aviators. All mystical and religious beliefs and techniques, he indicates here, are attempts to devise a world outside space and time, which is what astronauts experience directly – and in life, as in Ballard's stories, some end up terminally infected with visions, as do his hijackers, political assassins, and madmen. The lurching moon-walk is the limp of Robert Graves's club-footed Messiah. The birds which flap and wheel through these stories migrate, and so do his characters – sometimes as astronauts, into outer space, sometimes as lonely, desperate men, into inner space, inside their own heads.

Most fiction writers, even science-fiction writers, fall back gratefully on the redemptive power of love. Not Ballard. He seduces our timid minds with visions of space-time, light, and

solitary flight. "Flight and time, they're bound together. The birds have always known that. To get out of time we first need to fly." In the poisoned air of Cape Kennedy, NASA survivors have a space-sickness that wrecks their personal clocks: "time has run out", a single frozen moment stretches into

WAR FEVER
By J. G. Ballard
Collins, £12.95



Clare Boylan, black comic

resonate with the shrill screams of newly-made *cuntch*.

In fact in many of these almost uniformly imaginative, challenging, and diverse tales from Britain and America, it is male characters who practise this woman's art. Winifred Holtby's prize baby grows up and murders his model mother, while Elizabeth Bowen's model husband "makes arrangements" for the beautiful dress, that encapsulate the personality of his dazzling, abounding wife.

Father and son destroy one another and their lives in Elizabeth Gaskell's "Doom of the Griffiths", while snobbish admiring parents, brothers and sisters or old friends, when they don't (the former wickedly dissects the wife's "weekend" with her husband and children; the latter assumes the male's persona of a young German academic overwhelmed by new friends). Almost without exception the stories in this collection are powerful and enthralling.

Inspired tales of love, lust, loneliness, rage and waste, of change, oppression, nostalgia, endurance, and death stand as testimony to the talents of the

Naturally Saunders does not entirely omit tales of spurned women. Ann Enright and Ruth Rendell dream up grotesque and desperate vengeances for their deserted women, whilst the heroines of both Emma Tennant's and Lucy Ellmann's inspired sick jokes, "Rigor Beach" and "Pass The Parcel", are perhaps sadder and certainly madder still. Indeed only Ellen Gilchrist's story of a little sister's revenge on her bullying brothers has a happy, and non-destructive, ending. In this collection, only in this story is revenge truly sweet.

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Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Checkmate for sad private eye

Josef Skvorecky, the Czech writer who now lives in Toronto, is a virtuoso of the conflict between ideals or illusions, and things as they turn out to be. Irony flavours his work, no doubt because exile involves being unable to communicate straightforwardly. Skvorecky's international reputation rests upon two major novels, *The Bass Saxophone* and *The Engineer of Human Souls*, but he is less well known for a marvellous sequence of detective novels featuring Boruvka, his melancholy private eye.

The Return of Lieutenant Boruvka

By Josef Skvorecky
Translated by Patti Wilson
Faber, £12.99

Boruvka and arrived in Toronto, where his daughter works for a feminist detective agency, the Watchful Sisters. Here Boruvka manages to find employment as a parking lot attendant. His mournful demeanour, however, alarms the native Canadians, who have trouble believing a genius is in their midst.

It takes Boruvka no time at all to settle down to life as an outsider, and to a career observing the ways in which people try to make themselves comfortable away from home. Toronto appears to be crawling with Czech refugees. It's a pretty clique affair: there are divisions and subdivisions. The anti-communists, for instance, who emigrated after the 1948 coup suspect the ex-communists, the non-communists who stayed behind until the Soviet invasion 20 years later, of being crypto-communists, on the grounds that nobody could survive that long without yielding to the communist regime.

Both factions gather at the old English pub to gossip over the

latest edition of a Czech-language newspaper devoted to spreading rumours about former apparatchiks. When all-Canadian Heather Dondy is found dead – "with a 45 slug in her heart" – at the home of Jirina McCavish, editor of this scandal sheet, Boruvka gets on the case.

Skvorecky has written a mischievous parody of the detective mystery genre. Trying to back up a theory that implicates the Czech government, not to mention several hired killers and a tangled network of spies, the lieutenant runs into some awful baddies, such as Bignose, alias Werner von Vogelitzang. He confronts the mafia. At least, "that's what everyone calls it," explains Boruvka's daughter, "though the official name for it is the Communist Party."

Boruvka himself is a treat. He is not the hard-boiled detective, knocking back gallons of rye, out of Raymond Chandler. If he ever has to walk down the mean streets, he does so with eyes full of sadness – "a European kind of sadness", the narrator observes. Solving the murder only drives Boruvka deeper into despair. It seems to confirm his worst suspicions of human nature.

Boruvka says he left Prague because being a private detective in a country awash with secret policemen no longer made sense. In some respects *The Return of Lieutenant Boruvka*, written in 1981, no longer makes sense. The plot relies upon the polarity between western individualism and Soviet-style collectivism, and last year's upheaval in Central Europe has more or less disposed of that tension. But who really cares if Skvorecky's novel is out of date? It's wonderful anyway.

SHORT STORIES

writers and the trials of living – and not only living as a woman. Margaret Drabble writes as a newly-wed, wholly disillusioned husband; Elizabeth Bowen as a boy whose mother is dying; and A. S. Byatt as a male lodger haunted by the ghost of his husband's dead child.

Apart from moments of black comedy – by Muriel Spark and Clare Boylan, there is not a lot of laughter in *Parchment Moon*. Shelia MacKay and Patricia Ferguson focus on workplace exploitation; Angela Huth on comfort eating; Jane Gardam on the death of an adulterer. Only Sylvia Townsend Warner's intrepid siblings have a happy, loving relationship. Sara Maitland's trapeze artist twins tragically discover separate identities, and only Elizabeth Jane Howard's grand-daughter, amongst three generations of women, believes that life gets better as you get older. These stories are not nice, and the authors are not nice little ladies who lunch. The latter are anathema to Kate Saunders, who scorns writing that is "a testimony to woman's own lovely nature".

Revenge's introduction is punchy and political, with talk of injustice and inequality, of the advantages of castration, the joys of menstruation, the political relevance of Don Martens and enormous dungarees; these are not tirades written by fat, ugly, hairy lesbians who wouldn't get a man or into a sequined boob-tube if they tried till doomsday. Neither, more importantly, is either work a nice-nicey collection of charming little stories by charming little women – feminine women, men's women, REAL women.

At first glance, though, *Parchment Moon* appears to fall into this category. Susan Hill's introduction states that in choosing 25 stories written in this country, during this century, mostly since the war, she opted for "quiet, small-scale, intimate stories". Nice stories by nice ladies? Not at all, but the description, particularly "quiet", is misleading. In view of other editorial muddles, it is a mistake to take Hill's choice of words at face value.

The introduction incorrectly refers to Rose Tremain instead of Rose Macaulay, and the jacket blurb bizarrely states that Fay Weldon and Penelope Lively "explore female relationships with parents, brothers and sisters or old friends", when they don't (the former wickedly dissects the wife's "weekend" with her husband and children; the latter assumes the male's persona of a young German academic overwhelmed by new friends). Almost without exception the stories in this collection are powerful and enthralling.

Inspired tales of love, lust, loneliness, rage and waste, of change, oppression, nostalgia, endurance, and death stand as testimony to the talents of the

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Lifting the lid on the next world

David Robinson reviews *Flatliners*, *My Blue Heaven*, *The Mad Monkey* and Bresson's 1956 classic, *A Man Escaped*

Hollywood — after *Ghost*, *Ghost Dad* and *Heart Condition* — is still deep in speculation about the afterlife. This week's contribution is *Flatliners* (15, Odeon West End), written by Peter Filardi and directed by Joel Schumacher. As evidence of its sophisticated ambitions, the press material on the film includes a bibliography of paperbacks about life after death.

The story concerns a somewhat unbalanced medical student (Kiefer Sutherland) who incites a group of his peers (including the attractive Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon) to experiment in temporary death: stopping their hearts so that they register a flat line (whence the title) on ECG monitors.

They experience visions of the life beyond, but death turns out a can of worms. Resentful beings from the other world begin to return their visits.

The idea promises more than the film delivers. The trips are repetitive and the visions are not imaginative: the next world looks very like personal pop videos. The story develops into a fairly conventional horror movie, although it has a very proper, old-fashioned moral about atonement, and not interfering with the unknown.

Schumacher reflects sagely: "just because you're dead for a couple of minutes does not mean you understand eternity any more than being alive for two minutes means you understand life". His background in design shows: the experiments are conducted in an extraordinary ecclesiastical-style building, and a good deal of the film is irrelevantly staged in dramatic industrial locations.

Hollywood's other current preoccupation is gangsters. Herbert Ross's *My Blue Heaven* (PG, Warner West End, Cannon Haymarket) takes up where

GoodFellas left off: Steve Martin plays a hoodlum turned informer under a government witness protection scheme. Nora Ephron's script speculates on the possibilities when a life-long criminal is relocated in a polite, boring, crime-free Midwest community.

Her conclusion is cynical: the gangster ends up corrupting the entire community. This and the portrayal of the mobster as a sympathetic figure, make the film essentially unappealing.

Martin, with a wild hair-do, sharp suits and an uneasy accent, uncharacteristically forces the humour. The core of the comedy is Martin's moral seduction of his FBI minder, played by the short, Canadian comedian Rick Moranis, and a prim woman district attorney (Joan Cusack).

The interpolation of such devices as comic chapter titles and irrelevant dance routines suggests that the film-makers recognised that the comic idea was not enough to stay the course.

The Mad Monkey (18, Cannon Tottenham Court Road and Piccadilly) is much what one fears from the notion of a "European film". It is a Franco-Spanish co-production, in English, with a Spanish director and a story designed to accommodate an American and pan-European cast.

Jeff Goldblum plays an American screenwriter who comes to Europe, is commissioned to write a script for an odious British avant-garde director (Dexter Fletcher) and is seduced by the writer's nymphet sister (Liza Walker), who serves her sibling for bribe or blackmail. It is based on a novel by Christopher Frank, and directed by Fernando Trueba. Enigmatic would be the kind word for its muddled ideas.

The new films inevitably fade away beside Robert Bresson's *A Man Escaped* (*Un condamné à mort sera exécuté*, or *Le vent souffle où il veut*).



Heart stopping performance: Julia Roberts as Rachel Mansons in *Flatliners*, Joel Schumacher's tale of the afterlife

souffle où il veut: U. Renoir). After 34 years it is undiminished and unaltered, still unarguably one of the greatest works of cinema.

A title at the start of the film tells us: "This is a true story. I show it as it happened without any embellishment". The story was based on the account by a young French officer, Commandant Devigny, of his amazing escape from a Gestapo prison in Lyons in 1943. Bresson was also able to bring to the story his own experiences as a prisoner-of-war.

This is very unlike the conventional escape film. There is no ordinary dramatic suspense: the title itself tells us the outcome. The violence of beating, executions and the murder of a guard all

takes place discreetly off screen. For most of the film we see through the eyes — and into the eyes — of the prisoner himself. We experience his solitude and share his restricted view, through the high window of his cell. The methodical preparations for the escape are shown in documentary detail: the sharpening of a spoon to make a chisel; the painstaking creation of a rope out of bed springs and torn cloth.

The film is compelling, and even thrilling, less for the action than for the intense and exhilarating spiritual quality that underlies it. The film is about the intense will that drives the man on: escape, the solidarity of humans in extreme privation, and at the

same time the mysterious prov-idence that enables this man to succeed where others fail.

The secondary title of the film, a biblical quotation which was Bresson's original choice of title, is "The wind bloweth where it listeth". In a voice-over commentary, the protagonist constantly marvels at the divine chance that favours him.

This was the first film in which Bresson dispensed entirely with professional actors. He chose people for their faces and the spiritual quality they expressed for him, and formed them in the interior, understated kind of performance that characterises his films. Bresson's people, never seen outside the world of this film, have their own reality that remains after however many years.

François Leotter, lean, with a sensitive face and large eyes, was a philosophy student at the time he played the main role; Roland Modod, as a priest who befriends him in prison, was a journalist; an angry, unsuccessful escapee was one of Cousteau's frogmen. The wretched youth who, having been thrust into his cell becomes the escapee's undesired partner in the enterprise, was a 16-year-old from an orphanage. He has the film's memorable last line — banality elevated to a glorious pacism — which, for the sake of those who have still to experience the marvels of *A Man Escaped*, it would be a shame to reveal.

BRIEFING

Barter over the martyr

OUR own National Gallery has conceded defeat to the National Gallery of Washington over possession of *The Martyrdom of Saint Bartholomew* — a major work by the Spanish artist Jusepe de Ribera — due to lack of funds. The *Martyrdom* achieved a £1.7 million record for the artist at Sotheby's last July when it was bought by the London dealers Agnews. Now David Mellor, the arts minister, has announced a temporary export ban until December 15, in theory offering British institutions a chance to match the price; even so, that kind of money is beyond our galleries.

By command

A WELCOME change has been wrought on the Royal Concert. This year's event, in the Albert Hall, on November 20, dispenses with the usual pot-pourri of light orchestral classics. Instead, the Queen will be regaled with a huge chunk of Verdi — Act I of *Simon Boccanegra* — and other operatic extracts, performed by the massed forces of English National Opera and the Royal Choral Society. However, the programme does open with the National Anthem. Let us hope that the conductor, Mark Elder, has quelled the scruples about performing patriotic songs during the Gulf crisis that prevented him from conducting the Last Night of the Proms.

Last chance

WITH his solo show which closes at the Royal Miles Gallery (071-495 4747) on Friday, 37-year-old Sergei Chepilov has achieved the most sensationally successful debut in recent memory: 102 of the 103 paintings sold, more than half in the first three days, while the one remaining is on reserve. Chepilov's style is not always easy, but his often brilliant colour and dazzling technical skill would be buyers on the verge of blows at the gala opening. Even Mrs Thatcher acquired a Chepilov to present to Bournemouth. See them now without the razzmatazz. In a poppy-field of red stickers.

DANCE

Multi-layered trains of thought

John Percival on Siobhan Davies, one of Britain's foremost choreographers

Two years ago, Siobhan Davies launched her own dance company at a studio theatre in west London. Tonight, in the highlight of this year's Dance Umbrella festival, she brings that company to Sadler's Wells for the first time. She is understandably nervous. It is, after all, a big jump from Riverside Studios with its 400 seats, to Sadler's Wells with four times that number; from a building specialising in new work to a mainstream theatre accustomed to receiving companies of international standing.

But she feels she owes it to her dancers and to her work. "I would like lots of people to see them; I think the dancers I am working with have a very high profile at present, and I have to use their abilities and show them now."

This is another step on the path that has brought Davies quietly and steadily to the top of her profession. At the age of

40, she is the youngest of the few British choreographers who have proved themselves by originality and sustained quality, ranking with Christopher Bruce and Richard Alston among her own near contemporaries and Kenneth MacMillan in the senior generation.

Once offered the chance of becoming director of London Contemporary Dance Theatre, she said she would accept only on condition of a complete change in its way of working. That demand was turned down, so she started her own company instead. Even with this, she avoids the usual pattern of a permanent ensemble and long, debilitating tours. Instead, each year she prepares and polishes a new programme, presents it for a limited run, and then freelances for the rest of the year.

There is no lack of demand for her services: this year she made a new piece, *Dancing Ledge*, for English National Ballet (her first choreography for classical dancers), and another, *Signature*, for Rambert Dance Company, whose director Richard Alston has appointed her associate choreographer.

Davies and Alston are from the same stable. They were both art students who began to take dance classes, part-time, at the newly founded London Contemporary Dance School in the heady mid-1980s, when British dance belatedly discovered Modernism. Before long, Davies was the school's star pupil, taking part in the first London Contemporary season at The Place Theatre, and touring in a joint programme with the Royal Ballet's educational company.

At 21, Davies began making choreography and over the next 15 years created 17 works for the London Contemporary

things could be changed if he had been travelling in different trains in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Davies did not intend to reproduce that idea in her dances, but inevitably it was going to colour what she did. What she found, as she worked with the music, was that its layers affected the way she heard that her choreography also had to be layered with a different response to the train noises and the speech from the swift, continuously developed dances provoked by the quartet music. For the words, she and the dancers began by learning American sign language, translating the speech fragments and telling themselves stories. She then used the sign gestures as the starting point for her choreography.

For her new piece, Davies turns to Steve Reich's minimalist classic, *Different Trains*. She says she finds its rhythms exciting as the composer piles one layer upon another. The Smith Quartet, playing live, will be accompanied by a tape which superimposes up to three recorded quartets, speech fragments and the sound of trains. Reich calls it documentary music theatre, and for him it has a special meaning from his memories of travelling by train across America as a young Jewish boy in the 1940s, and thinking of how

JOUR DE FÊTE (BFI Coopera-
tor, U): Jacques Tati's first feature

to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

BATMAN AND ROBIN (RCA/Co-
operator, 15; two tapes): Columbia's 1949 serial — a marked improve-
ment on their 1943 *Batman*, though still no match for the crazy pomp and circumstance of Universal's serial output. Robert Lowery is the caped crusader.

A CHRISTMAS STORY (MGM/UA, PG): Epicodic adventures of a young boy in the Forties, determined to get an air rifle for Christmas. A neglected, impish delight, based on the writings of American humorist Jean Shepherd.

• Siobhan Davies Company opens tonight at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (071-278 2916).

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

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A CHRISTMAS STORY (MGM/UA, PG): Epicodic adventures of a young boy in the Forties, determined to get an air rifle for Christmas. A neglected, impish delight, based on the writings of American humorist Jean Shepherd.

PETER GREENAWAY: EARLY WORKS (BFI Coopera-
tor, PG): The serial, 40-minute
omnithological nimble *A Walk Through H* (1978), plus *Dear Phone* and *Water Wracks* — crisp, useful reminders of Greenaway's achievement before he simplified his style in *The Draughtsman's Contract*.

ROSALEEN GOODE SHOPPING (Pelican, 15): Broad, erratic satire from director Percy Adlon and his ample comic muse Menene Segovia, cast as an Arkansas housewife who beats the system with its own weapons. (1985)

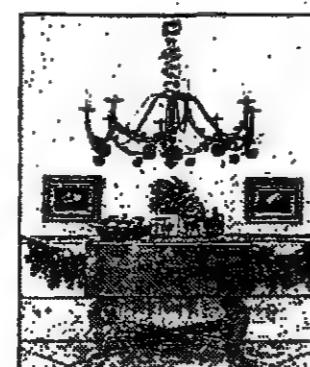
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Paul Douglas and Lauren Potter in *Different Trains*

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BRIEFING

After over
the martyr

ROCK

The song remains the same

Have rock musicians forgotten how to write new tunes? David Sinclair suggests reasons for the present surfeit of recycled material

Christmas is coming and with it the customary deluge of "Greatest Hits" and similar compilations. Veterans such as Cliff Richard, Elton John, Paul McCartney, the Alarm, Public Image Ltd, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Led Zeppelin are among those currently reaping new money from old material of one sort or another. Whether remixed, remastered, recorded live or merely repackaged, the raw musical material from which these collections are assembled is virtually all recycled.

Trading on the past in this way has become an established seasonal feature of the rock business and such retrospectives are usually a good deal for artist and consumer alike. The only people that feel cheated are the critics who, being required neither to produce nor to pay for the music they consume in such unusually vast quantities, are quicker than most to demand the spice of constant innovation.

Nevertheless, 1990 has been remarkable for the unprecedented degree to which rock and pop performers, young and old, have looked to the past for a supply of songs to keep them in business. From the most basic mainstream pop of Jason Donovan (a straight forgery of the Cascades' 1963 hit "Rhythm of the Rain") to the dance-friendly indie-rock of the Soup Dragons (a reconstructed "baggy" version of the Rolling Stones' "I'm Free"), old songs have played an increasingly central role in the charts.

The most sensational breakthrough of the year was that of Sinead O'Connor with "Nothing Compares 2 U", a dusted-down Prince composition. Other careers which have lifted off thanks to cover versions include those of the

Chimes (a sexy, soulful revamp of U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" which actually improved on the original), River City People (a pallid imitation of The Mamas and Papas' "California Dreaming") and Candy Flip (the Stones' "Strawberry Fields Forever", disconcertingly refracted through a prism of Nineties' psychadelia).

The No 1 hit this week is still "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers, exactly the same record that first climbed the charts in 1965. The song itself was No 1 as long ago as 1955 when it was recorded in less dramatic style by Jimmy Young.

While pundits have been bemoaning the lack of originality in contemporary pop for many years, two extraordinary recent albums have put the current malaise in focus. *Rubidyll* is a compilation released last month to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Elektra record label. This handsome artefact features many of the label's current roster of acts performing the songs of their predecessors. So we get Billy Bragg baring through Love's "Seven & Seven Is", the Pixies rippling the heart out of Paul Butterfield's "Born in Chicago", and the phenomenal jazz-inspired guitarist Danny Gatton transforming "Apricot Brandy" into a tour de force of funky virtuosity.

As well as being a persuasive piece of corporate public relations confirming the label's off-beat style and continuing integrity of purpose, *Rubidyll* is also a timely reminder of the legacy that rock now has at its disposal. But is the current crop of rock hummuses capable of adding to it?

Another multi-artist compilation, *Red, Hot and Blue*, set the



Recycled: The Righteous Brothers, whose 1965 hit "Unchained Melody" is at No 1 this week

alarm bells ringing. This widely discussed project, organised in order to raise money for research into AIDS, features a cross-section of contemporary stars – from the American rappers the Jungle Brothers, to stadium-rockers U2 – interpreting the music of Cole Porter. Here the cream of the rock fraternity is to be found seeking inspiration well beyond the traditional boundaries of "Rock Around the Clock", 1955 and all that, and generally making a hash of it. Neneh Cherry's "I've Got You Under My Skin", while charming in its way, bears no relation to the original song but for the actual words of the title.

Those at the other extreme, such as Lisa Stansfield who attempts a faithful recreation of "Down in the Depths", are simply not equipped to deal with the detailed nuances of Porter's work. Set against this consummate songwriting artistry, the inability of current performers to produce new material of such timeless quality is harshly exposed.

Before the Beatles, of course, nobody expected pop stars to write their own songs in the first place. Despite the odd co-credit, Elvis

Presley wrote nothing at all and Cliff Richard still relies on the work of professional songwriters. But once Lennon and McCartney set the ball rolling, rock became a creative juggernaut. Thus the great acts were also the great songwriters of their era: Jagger/Richards, Ray Davies, Lou Reed, Bowie, Costello, Dylan, Hendrix, Sting, Prince, Springsteen, Townshend, Wonder and many more.

A stigma about performing other people's material, except in exceptional circumstances, developed.

Rock, indeed, the very term "cover version" only has meaning in the world of rock. In the fields of jazz and classical music, it is taken for granted that there is a tried and tested body of work from which most "numbers" in most major performers' repertoires will be drawn. "Where are the Beethovens of today?" pondered classical music critic Paul Griffiths in *The Times* last Saturday, suggesting that the era of the great composers might "turn out to have been a special interlude in the history of western music."

If so, then at least it lasted for

two centuries. Rock's 30-year burst of creative expansion is more comparable to the period of intense innovation in jazz which lasted from roughly 1925 to 1955. Nowadays, although there is a trend towards composition among the new generation of formally trained players (the Marsalis brothers, Courtney Pine and others), the vast majority of contemporary mainstream jazz performers play nothing but "cover versions", although they would laugh at anyone who called them that.

Rock has not done badly for a genre supposedly based on three chords and a four-beat, but it increasingly looks as though the interesting permutations are all used up. There is now a vast trove of proven material to choose from and far too many performers for them all to be great writers. Besides, in the words of Norman Cook of Beats International – who enjoyed a No 1 earlier this year with their dub version of the S.O.S. Band's old hit "Just Be Good to Me" – "People who have good ideas, arrangements and talent but can't write songs, what else are they supposed to do?"

If ever a real-life couple could have been entirely conceived and constructed by Nigel Williams for the sole purposes of appearing on his BBC 2 *Bookmark* series, they would surely be Gert and Michael Hofmann. They are in fact father and son. Gert is the German novelist, Michael the poet he exiled to Eton at the age of 14, since when they have lived in separate states of deep mutual dislike and distrust. Michael now reckons he is like the warts on his father's elbow, scratched into submission but still bleeding. He further reckons that his father is like some third world dictator: bloated, outlandish and rapidly running out.

These are not just the opinions that Michael expresses in occasional international phone calls home; he publishes them in volumes of poetry which are then sent to his father in Germany who unsurprisingly fails to appreciate their artistic merit. Locked together by their immense dislike of each other, but devotion to themselves and their opinions, Gert and Michael were captured by the *Bookmark* camera on a German park bench, looking like refugees from a Samuel Beckett play adapted for the screen by Harold Pinter.

A wonderfully resilient wife and mother noted that her menfolk do not make life at home exactly a doddle when the boy comes to visit; father has only to announce that he is a novelist, and therefore not bound by documentary fact, for his son to rush off into the archives of the local town hall in order to prove that his uncle was really his grandfather.

Kevin Hull's film commendably restrained by any commentary, allowing us to reach our own conclusions. These were, of course, that the two men are deeply and unmistakably locked inside each other, bonded if not by love then by the terrible realisation that they are only really defined by their articulate dislike of each other's values and body language. There was no mention of whether or not Michael now has

TELEVISION Odd couple brushed with mutual distrust

his own family: if he does, he had better start watching out for the serialisation of his son's memoirs. Elsewhere last night, *Dispatches* (Channel 4) came up with a report from the Soviet Union about a Moscow mafia which makes Chicago in the Thirties look like Bexhill on a quiet afternoon. After five years of *perestroika*, the market supply system is worse than at any time since the second world war. The old communist guard is determined to protect its privileges and to establish the view that freedom causes chaos. As a result they are now hijacking food supplies and re-selling them in illegal markets with a 1,000 per cent mark-up. Protected by leather-jacketed henchmen, the authorities do deals with criminal gangs to ensure that free enterprise works only when totally corrupted, thereby proving a political point while simultaneously making themselves a black-market fortune.

As Gorbachev goes into the longest and coldest winter of his administration, it looks as though he could be beaten not by any alternative political force, but by gangs of street thugs who have noticed that in a city where 80 per cent of the police are accepting bribes they are unlikely to face arrest. The other 20 per cent of the police are, it seems, running the gangs from which their spare cash has long been derived.

For *Love or Money*, the Channel 4 monthly art series, is settling into a strong mix of business and cultural reporting that might usefully be transferred to the other arts. This week George Melly was on about the cultural significance of wristwatches and Richard Cork was worrying about the tea-towelling and biscuit-hunting of Constable's paintings, which are already overtaken by the tourist trade, although his market value in New York might have been stronger if he had cut off an ear or settled in Tahiti instead of just outside Ipswich.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER
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conduct the workshop in a radically severe style. The workshop consisted of him slapping the stick down and commanding one of the participants to embark on a spontaneous monologue. He laughs as he recounts how petrified some of his pupils were but proudly recalls that – in a few cases – some excellent creative results.

Cartwright's writing method is similarly spontaneous. He pours it out then selects "the jewels" and works on them. It is a hazardous, informal process that accounts for both the originality and brilliance of his prose and, at the same time, for its lapses into mediocrity and its occasional unfocused, overwrought meanderings. His plays have been criticised for their structural weakness. It is a problem he is currently tackling as he works on an Anglo-American television film where, he indignantly protests, "the dialogue is the least important thing".

When *Road* was first produced, some critics saw a powerful indictment of Thatcherism in its depiction of the downtrodden inhabitants of a decaying northern town. Yet Cartwright insists he is not a political playwright: "I was quite angry when I wrote *Road*, and that's what came out of me. I'm interested in writing about people, their emotions and their circumstances. I'm not interested in writing about political ideas."

He speaks with relish of a writers' workshop he led on "The Spontaneous Monologue". Cartwright turned up at the classroom wielding a stick, having decided to

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VERSE IN BRITTEN'S TOWN

ALDEBURGH'S Poetry Festival, which starts tomorrow, is only a year old, but has already emerged as one of the most promising in the country. The latest offering has expanded its educational role and acquired a decidedly international flavour.

The opening night's performers include Gerda Mayer also appearing will be Miroslav Holub. Both are Czechs of the second world war generation, and they are joined by the Romanian satirist, Marin Sorescu. To these, Aldeburgh has added George Szirtes – who is based in Hertfordshire but whose growing preoccupations with his Hungarian roots has made him something of a mouthpiece for the temporal and spiritually dispossessed post-war generation – and the American C.K. Williams. Linking the disparate viewpoints comes this

RODERIC DUNNETT

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PREVIEWS FROM 12 NOVEMBER

OPENING NIGHT 11 NOVEMBER 3pm

REVIEWS

Monster of raging bitterness

THEATRE

The Seagull Swan, Stratford

WHAT is the result of the coupling of a wolf and a python? The answer is Susan Fleetwood's *Arkadia* at the climactic moment when she is luring her lover Trigorin from the adoring Nina. Rarely can there have been such growlings, hissing, shriekings and howlings as she grabs at his legs, pummels his torso, and will not let him go. Well might Roger Allam's Trigorin look like not just a swallowed and regurgitated rabbit.

With acting like that at his production's centre, no wonder Terry Hands has trouble cohering his actors into a balanced whole. He was saying in these pages on Tuesday that what interested him about Chekhov's play was the characters' musings about art and drama, talent and creativity. It is doubtless to emphasise this that he keeps the makeshift theatre built by *Arkadia*'s writer son, Kostia, permanently visible among the backstage birch trees. But no such overriding idea makes itself felt. Rather the impression is of a lot of strong, interesting performances not always at one with each other.

Amanda Root, for instance, makes a vivid Nina, powered half into orbit by her girish enthusiasm in the opening act, utterly earthbound, broken and forlorn in the last. Again, Allam brings real

emotional intelligence to his big scene with her. At first his Trigorin is the exasperated workaholic, mildly justifying himself to this gangie. But gradually he becomes more open, more confidential, touching her arm as, without meaning to, he reveals his disappointment and self-contempt.

His unassuming Trigorin is far from the cynical roué of theatrical tradition, and Simon Russell Beale equally far from the slim, sensitive plant, the anorexic aesthete Kostia seem often to be. There is an unfinished childhood to be spotted in both his rage at, and abject adoration of, his impossible mother. And when he speaks of her lover, or the theatre to which she belongs, he stoops, half-crouches and, spines glinting, balefully lets rip: part snapping turtle, part podgily aggrieved infant, part embittered artist.

Embittered. If there is a central emphasis in Hands's production, perhaps it is that basic emotion. The play is peopled by characters hopelessly in love with characters hopelessly in love with still others; but the ugliness of being unloved has seldom been so widely apparent. Indeed, never have I been so aware of the bitterness of *Arkadia*'s steward Shamrayev, played with brutally clenched fists by Trevor Martin. Little wonder his wife, Cherry Morris's Polina, is so frustrated, so angry. No wonder Katy Beahan's Masha, faced with both romantic and paternal rejection, has become a tipsy, scowling monster.

But she still plays the monster

from its own point of view, unlike Susan Fleetwood. For all her occasional attempts to humanise her, she has observed *Arkadia* from outside, presenting a portrait of an actress who is either narcissistically posturing round the stage or throwing brassily melodramatic



Frantic climax: Susan Fleetwood and Roger Allam in *The Seagull*

fits of temperment. It is too external, too extreme a view of someone who cannot distinguish real from false emotion. The production simply cannot assimilate so madly rampaging an ego.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

company's grant such gloomy news.

In this context *Kitchen Matters* becomes a sort of summing up of attempts to change theatre's perceived notions of lesbians. But in doing so, Lavery makes use of plenty of stereotypes herself: the hiker with the unwieldy bosom, the humourless vegan. They are characterised in a play being written by an offstage authoress - "She thinks she's Pirandello or someone," complains one of her creations when the disembodied voice alters her motivation. This particular character is Trixie, a blonde Brooklyn Dionysus (wittily played by Peta Masters) who drops down from her cloud to teach a lesson to homophobe Penny, a power-dressed villainess in acid-green.

After marching through parades of *Mother Courage*, Dylan Thomas (*Under Milk Kitchen*) and an offstage Ayckbourn party, Stacey Charlesworth's Penny disfigures herself as a very fetching lesbian (sorry about the sexist admiration) and goes off to spy on the girls-only juketing. We are now entering *Bacchae* country from which a kitchen-sink mum will return with a northern accent and a severed head.

Although the humour is uneven, and one of the songs just does not belong in a piece calling for the end to stereotyping, Nona Sheppard's company has marked the passing of a theatrical enterprise with a sprightly, undiscouraged show.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Then something startling happened. The 56-year-old trouper seemed to turn on a valve marked energy, a switch labelled personality and an auto-pilot called sheer professionalism. The proper show had begun.

Her voice is better than ever: brassy or guttural in the belters, sweet and vulnerable for those intimate musical confessions on the high stool. And her dancing defies the decades: she may duck out of the splits in the stool can-can, and employ a quartet of lissome hoofers to boost the routines, but her limbs (mostly sparsely decorated by black

stringy things) shoot out with that ramrod assurance of old, and her gift for choreographic mimicry is undimmed. Indeed, the most ingenious number in the show is probably the take-off of a Bob Fosse routine: all bowler hats, white gloves and fiddly hand movements.

But cleverness is not what this show is chiefly about. MacLaine fans pay for the display of emotional honesty, expressed in musical melodrama — and she does not disappoint.

"This is my hooker-victim medley," she says to introduce the *Sweet Charity* selection, sent up

splendidly (a limp feather boa playing a suggestive role in "Big Spender"). Then comes the reverse side of the coin: the down-trodden little lady hitting back, as in her punch-packing number from *Gyogy*.

Best of all is the warmth of her humour. Not often is the *Sunday Sport* castigated so devastatingly in song. But most of her wit is self-bunkering, and often directed at those famous MacLaine extra-sensory experiences. Luckily, the usual number of senses is quite adequate to enjoy this show.

RICHARD MORRISON

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Arroyo, Chris Correspondent



This position is from the game Peter vs Garry Kasparov

FRANION

(b) A paragon, from companion, chon, or man, or as with so man, words in our absurd, male chauvinist lingo, a lone woman, origin deeply obscure. *Spenser Faerie Queen*: "His lady, / not Florimell! / But some faire franion, fit for such a fere."

SHASTER

(c) A holy scripture, one of the sacred writings of the Hindus, from the Sanskrit sans to teach: "They know that the Bible is our Shaster, and suppose it to be as good for us, as their own Shasters are for them."

TESTON

(b) The shilling of Henry VII, the first English coin with a true portrait of the ruler as opposed to a symbolic representation. From the Latin *testone* augmentative of *testa*: a head: "This gentleman had coined a vast quantity of testons of a base alloy and under standard."

BOSHTA

(b) A pre-colonial Australian colloquialism for a word of anger, unknown origin: "He clobbered backs an' filly, beccy! F doesn't feel the bushin Bluke's way."

ENTERTAINMENTS

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COLONIUM 071 836 3161 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

THE ROYAL BALLET 7.30 7.50 8.30 9.30 10.30 11.30 12.30 1.30 2.30 3.30 4.30

THEATRES 10.30 11.30 12.30 1.30 2.30 3.30 4.30

ALDWYCHE 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

COLIN MEE 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

PRIVATE LIVES 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

AMERICANA 071 836 6111/2 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

BEATLES 071 836 6111/2 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

BOOKENDS 071 836 6111/2 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

CHRISTOPHER INNES 071 836 6111/2 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

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EDWARD HORDERN 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

FRANCIS DINSDALE 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

THE SILENT HOUSE 071 836 6046 CC 071 240 7200 071 836 3162 071 773 0646

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAKEY

• TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVILLE

BBC 1

8.00 *Ceefax*
 8.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Louise Mayor
 8.50 Daytime UK: A preview of the day's events
 9.00 News, regional news and weather
 9.05 Brainwave, Quiz show hosted by Andy Craig 9.25 *Dish of the Day*, Rosemary Moon with another recipe idea 9.30 *People Today*, Adrian Mills and Gobi Jones talk to mothers-to-be about their hopes and fears for the birth 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* which comes this morning from *Vanoy*, mid-Gloucestershire 10.25 *The Family News* (r) 10.35 *People Today*, Katie Peacock explores arts and crafts 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 *Kirky*, Robert Kirky-Stiles introduces and discusses *Midweek* on its topical subject 11.45 *Before Noon*, Adrian Mills and Gobi Jones take viewers inside *Alton Towers* and *Judi Spiers* reveals the winner of today's *Ernest's quiz* 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 *After Noon* features *Rosie Conley's Diet and Fitness Club* 12.30 *Scenes Today*, Live entertainment from Pebble Mill with *Judi Spiers* and Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 *Regional news and weather* 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton, *Weather*

8.00 News
 8.15 Westminster: A round-up of parliamentary business 9.00 *Dayline* Two includes 8.45 *France and the French* 10.15 An exploration of the Christian faith 11.00 *Pollution and conservation* 12.05 *Changes in the English countryside over the last four decades* 1.20 *PC Pinterken* and 1.25 *Fireman Sam* 2.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 11.55 *In the Shadow of Fujisan*: The Bird of Happiness. A look at the flight of the Japanese crane, for centuries a symbol of happiness and long life, but now under threat (r). (Ceefax)

5.00 News and weather followed by *Wild World: The Return of the Bone Chaser*. *Cameraman Heinz Seitmann* sees the lynx as an important regulator of the deer population, and hopes that one day wolves will return to Europe's forests. Narrated by Anthony Smith (r) 3.30 News, regional news and weather 4.00 *Call My Bluff*, Arthur Marshall and Frank Muir host (r) 4.45 *Maureen Lipman, Robin Bailey, Sue MacGregor and Pauline Lifford*. *Robert Hossein* is in the chair (r) 4.30 *Behind the Headlines*, Jeffrey Archer and Paul Bunting lock horns in debate over topical issue 6.00 *One Four Four*: Magazine series about disability. This week's look at disabled people taking direct action for disability incomes and accessible infrastructure 5.30 *Clean Sheets*, Education magazine 6.00 *Film: Run of the Arrow* (1965). Rod Steiger as an embittered ex-civil war leader whose hunting of the Yankees leads him to join the Sioux nation in their continuing struggle. A strong and unusual western from the cult director *Samuel Fuller*

1.30 *Neighbours*, (Ceefax) 1.50 *Going for Gold*, European quiz show 2.15 *Film: The Private Name* of Sgt O'Farrell (1968), Bob Hopkins and Phyllis Diller unleash their way through a sticky urban farce about naval and naval life in the Pacific during the second world war. With Gina Lollobrigida, Jeffrey Hunter. Directed by Frank Tashlin 3.50 *The Broke*, Animated adventure of Harry and his weather house friends narrated by David Shaw 4.05 *Clockwise*, Quiz hosted by Dennis Day 4.45 *Fireman Sam*, *Conrad* 4.45 *Operation Green*, Children's comedy serial starring Paul Jones as an eccentric green activist with a secret everyone wants. (Ceefax) 4.55 *Neighround* 5.05 *Blue Peter*, (Ceefax) 5.35 *Neighround* (r) (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: *Sportsline* 5.40 *Inside Ulster* 6.00 *One O'Clock News* with Mervyn Lewis, Regional news and weather 6.30 *Regional News Broadcasts*, Northern Ireland: *Neighbours* 7.00 *One Foot in the Grave* by Gary Dingle, (r) (timelapse broadcast with *Radio 4*) 7.30 *Enders*, (Ceefax) 8.00 *Tomorrow's Team*, The regular team is joined by the avuncular Bob Symes, who introduces a method of wallpapering that will not end in tears. Another item reveals why building a dam on the Danube may leave the people of Czechoslovakia and Hungary with nothing to drink

7.20 *Animation Now: Mountain Music*, The rape of the planet as seen by claymation expert Will Vinton 7.30 *First Sight: All Change*, A bird's eye look at London Transport's staff changes since the end of King's Cross fire disaster three years ago. Wales: *Open Space*; Northern Ireland: *Birds of a Feather*; England - East: *Second Thought*; Midlands: *The Midlands Report*; Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester: *Close Up North*; Southampton: *Southern Eye*; Plymouth: *Western Approach*; Bristol: *Current Account* 8.00 *Red Dwarf III*, Off-beat space sitcom, (Ceefax) 8.30 *Top Gear* includes Jeremy Clarkson testing the Volvo 240 Estate, the Jaguar XJS and the Audi Quattro


 Centaurian: Harry Enfield's dog Gigi (8.00pm)

8.00 News
 8.15 Westminster: A round-up of parliamentary business 9.00 *Dayline* Two includes 8.45 *France and the French* 10.15 An exploration of the Christian faith 11.00 *Pollution and conservation* 12.05 *Changes in the English countryside over the last four decades* 1.20 *PC Pinterken* and 1.25 *Fireman Sam* 2.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 11.55 *In the Shadow of Fujisan*: The Bird of Happiness. A look at the flight of the Japanese crane, for centuries a symbol of happiness and long life, but now under threat (r). (Ceefax)

5.30 *Birds of a Feather: Thirty Something*, Earth comedy starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson as sisters whose husbands are both in prison. Sharon gets depressed as her thirtieth birthday approaches. (Ceefax), Northern Ireland: *Spotlight* 5.45 *One O'Clock News* with Mervyn Lewis, Regional news and weather 6.00 *One Foot in the Grave*, Gloom comedy, with more than usual in common with real life, about the trials and tribulations of an elderly husband. Starring Robert Wilson and Annabel Croft, (Ceefax) 6.15 *Neighround* 6.30 *Blue Peter*, (Ceefax) 6.55 *Neighround* (r) (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: *Sportsline* 5.40 *Inside Ulster* 6.00 *One O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey, Weather 6.30 *Regional News Broadcasts*, Northern Ireland: *Neighbours* 7.00 *One Foot in the Grave* by Gary Dingle, (r) (timelapse broadcast with *Radio 4*) 7.30 *Enders*, (Ceefax) 8.00 *Tomorrow's Team*, The regular team is joined by the avuncular Bob Symes, who introduces a method of wallpapering that will not end in tears. Another item reveals why building a dam on the Danube may leave the people of Czechoslovakia and Hungary with nothing to drink

with characters unspécific to place or time. In the new series, there are examples in *Little Brother*, a hyperactive schoolboy, of what is not wanted. The *Brokers* who are experts on what's out about their care, and *Old Git*, a cantankerous pensioner. The parallel stories shown between Enfield and the late Dick Emery, another prolific creator of characters and catchphrases, may not be as far-fetched as it seems at first glance

8.30 *Minutes* 8.45 *It's Eaten*, *It's Eaten* is a kindly widow of 65 from Rothwell who has found herself looking after not one, but six, elderly female relatives. Eileen's mother, mother-in-law, three cousins and an aunt, aged between 80 and 92 and variously disabled, all in their various ways rely on her for their contact with the outside world. John Pritchard's film handles the theme with sympathy and not a little humour, while being unashamedly about Eileen's predicament. She admits that she is born with resentment at losing her husband and becoming responsible for his blind, deaf and immobile mother, and guilt at feeling resentful. She realises that the old women are using her as a sponge to soak up their misery and says it would be lovely to go away and forget them all. But she cannot bring herself to do so and with her husband dead and no children, her 'ladies' at least keep her occupied. (Ceefax) 9.00 *Smith and Jones in Small Doses: The Waiting Room*, The Reverences Pennyquick and Bottomley discover that their dog collars are just about the only thing they have in common (r). (Ceefax) 10.30 *Newsnight* with Jeremy Paxman 11.15 *The Late Show* includes Michael Ignatieff interviewing French film maker Marcel Ophuls 11.35 *Weather* 12.00 *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.92. Ends at 12.35am

ITV LONDON

6.00 *TV-am*
 6.25 *Keystones*, Another edition of the music quiz hosted by Alastair Darvel 9.55 *Thames News and Weather*
 10.00 *The Time ... The Place ... Discussion series chaired by John Stapleton, The Conservative MP Sir John Stokes, who called for Iraqi hostages and their relatives to stop "mewling and pawing" over their plight, meets some of those people concerned who took exception to his remark.*

10.00 *This Morning*, Magazine series with a family start presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather

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Foreign staff 'remains last resort for companies'

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RECRUITING abroad remains a "last resort" for most companies, despite serious skill shortages in some sectors, and the fast-approaching single European market.

This is the main conclusion in a study in the latest *Employment Gazette* on the role of foreign workers in the labour market by John Salt of University College, London, and Robert Kitching.

The study says that new survey evidence suggests that employers' poor knowledge of labour markets abroad, and Britain's relatively low pay levels, limit their scope for hiring foreign workers.

Furthermore, for some companies the greater concern was being able to hold on to

staff in Britain rather than being able to recruit from their competitors in Europe. "In response to this, defensive rather than offensive recruitment strategies were the order of the day," the study concludes.

"Most employers wanting skilled workers continue to poach staff from their UK competitors, but there was plenty of evidence that companies could no longer poach so easily, and, as a consequence, had increased their own training facilities."

Growing skills shortages are regarded as an important factor, maintaining high earnings growth in Britain in the face of the economic slowdown brought about by the government's counter-inflationary squeeze.

Business surveys have repeatedly found that companies have failed so far to prepare for the single European market in goods, services and

labour after 1992. Between 1984 and 1988 the numbers of foreign nationals working in the United Kingdom rose by 10 per cent to 1.12 million, equivalent to 4.5 per cent of the total labour force.

The Irish formed the biggest national group, accounting for nearly a quarter of all foreign nationals and two-thirds of workers from the European Community.

Half of the overseas workers are in the vibrant, service-oriented South-East. In London alone they fill one job in eight, with hotels and catering relying heavily on foreign workers.

But foreign workers are not solely in low-paid jobs. In socio-economic terms they largely reflect the home population. One in five is in professional, managerial or employing positions. An interview survey of four

sectors in the summer of 1989 showed that in financial sector companies, foreigners accounted for up to a third of staff.

In electrical engineering, percentages were generally lower; in health, the range was 5-10 per cent; in hotels and catering it was not uncommon in London for more than half the workforce to be foreigners.

While transnational corporations have successfully developed internal labour markets, transferring staff from one country to another, the study found that few United Kingdom employers are actively recruiting overseas to fill jobs in Britain.

However, in the City, the most common view is that London provides a major international resource pool for the financial services industry, allowing skills shortages to be met locally.

Mint firm criticised for breach of bid rule

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Takeover Panel has criticised Birmingham Mint and Chartered WestLB, its merchant banking adviser, for a serious breach of the Takeover Code.

The breach concerns Birmingham's agreement to invest £1.5 million in equipment following a hostile bid from IMI, the metals group.

The panel gave IMI the opportunity to withdraw its £1.2 million bid because of Birmingham's investment in a nickel plating plant. But IMI has decided to press home its 85p a share cash offer.

The panel's ruling came after a complaint from IMI that Birmingham had broken rule 21 of the Takeover Code by making a material investment during a bid.

Samuel Montagu, IMI's adviser, was forced to pull its offer document after discovering that Birmingham had bought the equipment. If IMI wins the bid, it may negotiate to cancel the contract.

Birmingham signed the formal purchase order to buy the plating plant on October 23, three days after IMI launched its offer. Birmingham first cleared the purchase on October 18, a day after IMI met the company to discuss possible terms for an agreed bid. Neither Birmingham nor Chartered WestLB asked the panel for permission to make the acquisition.

The Takeover Code forbids companies to make material acquisitions during a bid without holding a shareholders' meeting to approve them. This is to prevent companies using an acquisition as a so-called poison pill to try to frighten off predators.

The investment in plating equipment was a main factor behind IMI's bid, which hoped to save on investment costs by combining its minting operation with Birmingham.

The two companies operate the only private minting plants in Britain, and need improved plating equipment due to a growing call for cheaper coins. IMI is negotiating to buy a similar plant.

Tony Cross, Birmingham's chairman, said he accepted the panel's ruling.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Serious challenge: Gerald Scanlan, Allied Irish Bank's chief executive yesterday

AIB ahead with £109m

AIB Group, the Irish bank, has given a warning that it will have difficulty maintaining its profits this year. The bank said achieving the same profits is a "serious challenge."

AIB was reporting a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.1 million (£109 million) in the six months to end-September. The bank was helped by a £1.2 million profit on the sale of a stake in the Dublin cable television

provider, and the benefits of an £180 million rights issue in May.

Dilution from the rights issue caused a 5 per cent fall in earnings per share to 12.1p, although the bank increased its interim dividend by 12 per cent to 13.5p.

Profits were held back by falls at the British and American divisions, due to increased bad debt provisions. The group-wide provision rose 117

per cent to £60.4 million.

Paddy Dowling, AIB's deputy chief executive, said the bank is planning to invest up to £20 million in a financial services arm to sell products via its Irish branches. AIB is awaiting approval from the Irish industry and commerce department and hopes to begin operations within six months.

Temps, page 31

Nadir family's finance man expected to break silence

FROM MARTIN WALLER IN GENEVA

JASON Davies, the former stockbroker whom the Serious Fraud Office are keen to question about the Polly Peck affair, is expected to break his silence in Geneva over the next fortnight.

His lawyer confirmed that Mr Davies was still in Switzerland and that an earlier plan to put his side of the story at a press conference had been postponed. She would not give a reason for the postponement.

Mr Davies runs Nadir Investments, which administers the personal finances of

Asil Nadir and his family. He is still working full-time at the company's headquarters some miles outside the city, sources in Geneva suggest. The offices of Nadir Investments form part of an extensive farm in the village of Givens.

But he was not there yesterday. Pam Cobb, an employee of Nadir Investments, said that Mr Davies had no comment to make at the moment but that he expected to speak some time in the middle of this month.

Mr Davies has been under pressure to reveal the links

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Foseco in cash buy for American group

FOSECO, target of a £237 million hostile takeover bid by Burman Castrol, has acquired the American Certek Group, which uses technical processes to carry out maintenance on the refractory linings of ovens and copper converters while still hot. The acquisition is for a cash consideration of \$2.65 million, with \$300,000 payable on completion and the balance spread over seven years.

Bob Jordan, group managing director of Foseco, said Certek's operations were complementary to his company's high technology Foseco business, in which Glaverbel, of Belgium, holds a 49 per cent interest. "This is a small but important acquisition which will play a significant part in strengthening Foseco's technical lead and the geographical coverage of our growing Foseco business," he said.

Gieves slips into the red

THE Gieves Group, which owns Gieves & Hawkes, the tailor, and Redwood Burn, the book and magazine publisher, made a pre-tax loss of £105,000 in the six months to end-July compared with a profit of £949,000. Sales rose from £23.9 million to £27.2 million. The interim dividend is 1.5p down from 1.6p. Shares in the group fell to 110p.

Job cuts at Renault

RENAULT plans to lay off 4,732 people next year, reducing its workforce to 63,128, according to union representatives at the French state-owned car-maker. Renault declined to comment, but has already said it plans to cut 2,346 jobs this year and expects attributable net profit to drop more than 50 per cent to 4 billion francs, with production falling 3 to 5 per cent next year.

The European Commission announced it has approved an alliance between Renault and Volvo of Sweden that will produce the world's biggest heavy truck maker and the seventh largest vehicle manufacturer.

Calor to sell transport firm

CALOR Group, the bottled gas concern, is selling its transportation business to Transport Development Group for slightly below its net asset value of £7 million. Alistair Pate, finance director of Calor, said although the disposal would show a small book value loss in the current year, longer term it would have a favourable impact on earnings.

Souza profits plunge

Souza Cruz, the Brazilian-based subsidiary of BAT Industries and one of the country's largest companies, reported net profits of just 4.50 billion cruzeiros for the first nine months of 1990, down from 10.48 billion cruzeiros for the comparable period to the end of September 1989. Results for the third quarter show net losses of 309 million cruzeiros. The figures have been adjusted for inflation.

BAT, which owns 75 per cent of Souza Cruz, stressed that the results must be "significantly" adjusted before they are consolidated into its own accounts. The downturn was mainly attributed to further tobacco losses.

Stormgard in £75,000 losses

By MARTIN BARROW

STORMGARD, the office supplies and stationery supplier, incurred £75,000 pre-tax losses during the half-year to end-June, against profits of £1.4 million for the first six months of 1989.

Losses were struck before a £2.17 million extraordinary charge in respect of trading losses by Jacqumar, a fashionwear business expected to be sold in the second half, and by discontinued operations.

Receipts of £87,000 in deferred taxation left a £12,000 profit before extraordinary charges and earnings of 0.04p a share (3.75p). There is no interim dividend (1p).

David Dunn, group chief executive, blamed a squeeze on margins caused by severe price competition and higher raw material costs, which had not been passed on to customers. Export sales declined as a result of the strength of sterling and uncertainty caused by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

Turnover was virtually unchanged at £25.7 million, against £25.5 million but operating profits fell from £1.33 million to £583,000. Higher interest rates pushed interest charges up by almost £200,000 to £580,000.

Gunn retires from RHM

John Gunn, who supervised the rise and collapse of British & Commonwealth, the financial services conglomerate, is retiring from the board of Rank Hovis McDougall, the food group. RHM has appointed Michael Beckett, the former managing director of Consolidated Goldfields, and Mr A M B Large, from Swiss Bank Corp, to the board.

ISE wins its first insider case

By JON ASHWORTH

THE International Stock Exchange has brought its first prosecution for insider dealing since broader powers were introduced in July.

Peter Bernard Lukins and John Henry Lukins appeared at Taunton magistrates' court yesterday and pleaded guilty to charges of contravening the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985.

Peter Lukins was fined £500 on two counts of insider dealing, plus £229 costs. John Lukins was fined £750 on three counts, with £432 costs.

The prosecution follows an investigation into dealings in the shares of Pittard Garner.

Mike Feltman, head of the Stock Exchange's insider dealing group, said wider powers introduced following an amendment to the Companies Act would speed up straightforward investigations.

"This case demonstrates these powers are invaluable where the exchange has compiled evidence to the necessary criminal standards and where the additional investigative powers of DTI inspectors are not required in order to obtain a successful prosecution," he said.

British Steel seeks cash injection from Japanese

By ROSS TIEMAN AND KERRY GILL

BRITISH Steel has been holding talks with Japanese and German rivals in search of a joint venture solution to its problematic Scottish operations.

A cash injection from a partner could enable modernisation of key plants, eliminate a competitor, and avoid further closures and job losses in Scotland.

Ian Lowe, an analyst with Smith New Court, the broker, said: "My belief is that they would regard that as an elegant solution to the problem."

Talks so far are believed to have revolved round the Clydesdale tube works in Lanarkshire, and the Imperial Works at Airdrie, where a thread is cut into the pipes so that they can be joined. The plants employ about 1,700 people.

Sir Robert Scholey, British Steel's chairman, highlighted losses at Clydesdale at BS's annual meeting on July 27. British Steel has already announced the closure of its Ravenscraig strip mill on April 5 with the loss of 770 jobs.

A review of BS's plate-making operations, including the Dalzell Plate Mill at Motherwell, Lanarkshire, is expected to be reviewed by Sir Robert and his board soon. British Steel believes it has too much plate-making capacity.

The integrated steel-making works at Ravenscraig is one of five operated by British Steel. Its costs are believed to be among the highest in the company, partly due to its unfavourable location. A Japanese partner would be most attractive for BS. Although

GM signs DM600m car deal with Czechoslovaks

From PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

GENERAL Motors Europe has signed a preliminary contract with a Czechoslovak car maker to produce cars and gearboxes in Czechoslovakia.

The agreement, signed with Bratislava Automobile Works (BAZ), the government-owned parts maker, calls for production to begin in 1992 on 250,000 gearboxes a year for GM assembly plants in Europe. The plant will eventually produce GM cars for the Czechoslovak market.

The deal involves an initial GM investment of DM600 million, possibly rising to more than DM1.5 billion. It is

capacity. In a second stage of production, GM will produce new versions of its Opel Kadett and Opel Vectra cars solely for sale in Czechoslovakia. GM will also set up a franchised dealership network.

Mr Barcak said a final, full contract would be signed by December 15, 1990.

GM already has several

facilities in Eastern Europe.

An Opel Vectra assembly line

is under construction in eastern Germany and an engine

factory and passenger car

assembly plant will open in

Hungary in 1992.

Andrey Barcak, the former

Czechoslovak foreign trade

minister who is president of

GM's Czechoslovak opera-

tions, said the new venture

would renovate existing plant

in the Czechoslovak market.

The deal involves an initial

GM investment of DM600

million, possibly rising to

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between a Western car-maker

and a Central European car

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Five years ago Lord Sainsbury, chairman of Britain's top food retailer, was telling those who wanted to hear that J Sainsbury had a further five years of growth in the Britain before the country was saturated with supermarkets. Today he is saying much the same thing. The timetable has rolled forward, he says, because the situation is dynamic and the demand for new, exciting food products is almost unlimited. But long term investors are coming to realise that the golden days of the supermarketpeers like Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway are inevitably limited. True, the new supermarkets are more profitable than people perceived five years ago, and costs make up a lower proportion of sales.

Improved efficiency means that towns which once were written off as too small to support a supermarket are being reconsidered by the food retailers. Sainsbury has identified 150 locations where it would like to have new stores and finds it profitable to shut down old stores and open new ones, even when a new store costs in excess of £15 million.

AIB Group's shareholders are feeling grumpy at the moment. They begrudgingly subscribed to an £160 million (£144 million) rights issue in May, the second in 18 months, to fund a bid for Baltimore Bancorp which never emerged. Now, AIB is sitting pretty on a heap of capital, while the shareholders have suffered an 11p share price loss.

AIB's prospects look gloomier than they have for years. While pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £121 million in the half-year to June, the company said that achieving last year's attributable profit in the full year would be a "serious challenge".

Profits only rose at all thanks to a £12 million gain from the sale of a stake in Cablelink, the Dublin cable company, and an estimated £6 million benefit from the rights issue proceeds. Earnings per share fell 5 per cent to 112.1p. The only compensation AIB can offer is an increased half-year dividend of 113.5p, up 11 per cent.

The problems stem from newer businesses. Operating profits in Britain fell 73 per cent to £15.3 million due to sharp increases in both bad debts and operating costs.

American business was also hit by bad debts and profits fell 44 per cent to £12.9 million. Until now, First Maryland, AIB's subsidiary, had escaped the ravages of property market collapse on the east coast, but it could not be immune forever.

Pre-tax profits for the year might still reach £120 million, putting the shares, at 114.5p, on a p/e ratio of seven. It will take the bank some time before it recovers the confidence of the Irish institutions.

J. Bibby & Sons

Few British companies can honestly say that the worst effects of the recession are now behind them. After two difficult years in 1988 and 1989, J. Bibby & Sons, the industrial and agricultural group, may prove to be an exception.

Just 12 months ago Bibby published annual results that made grim reading at a time

AIB sitting pretty as investors feel pinch



Bargain hunting: Richard (left) and Michael

when the true extent of the downturn in British industry was not apparent. Since then much progress has been made. Paper and converted products, affected last time by fast-rising wood pulp prices, have bounced back, while each of the three other divisions increased operating profits.

The result has been a 17 per cent increase in taxable profits to £33.5 million for the year to

the end of September, well ahead of expectations, and earnings up 22.5 per cent to 20.36p a share. The total dividend rises from 8.5p a share to 9p, with a final of 6.25p. The shares rose 12p to 129p.

In a competitive environment a keen eye has been kept on costs but the company has not forgotten the wider scene. Six acquisitions have been

made, each with a strong European theme, for a total of £26.6 million. However, borrowings remain under control, with gearing restricted to 26 per cent of shareholders' funds.

With Barlow Rand, of South Africa, holding 86.5 per cent of Bibby, the shares are unlikely to set pulses racing but hold attraction as an income stock. At current levels the yield is 9.8 per cent, which offers more support than a prospective p/e of 6.4.

Excalibur

MICHAEL and Richard Griffiths, Excalibur's chairman and managing director, plan to use the proceeds of their £8.5 million rights issue to fund further expansion, at a time when they feel there are bargains to be had, and to reduce short-term borrowings.

Gearing stands at about 95 per cent, but should come down to 60 or 70 per cent by the year-end.

The issue price of the new shares at 45p compares with a previous closing price of 58p. The shares fell back to 51p on the news, giving an ex-rights price of 49p.

The company has a good record in acquisitions, it has bought 23 companies since 1987, including nine which were loss-making and have since been turned round.

Excalibur has also agreed to acquire Price & Orpian, an engineering company which makes components for the aerospace and vintage car markets, for £1.3 million. It looks like a good buy — considering that Price has net assets of £1.5 million, including £700,000 in cash and made pre-tax profits of £450,000 in the year to end-May, on sales of £1.7 million.

Excalibur estimates that pre-tax profits for the six months to end October will not be less than £2 million (£1.7 million). It intends to declare an interim dividend of 0.4p (0.3p), and forecasts total dividends of 1.8p (1.35p).

Analysts have upgraded forecasts to £5.7 million for the year, giving earnings on the enlarged capital of 8.3p per share and a p/e of 6.1. The rights look good on a longer-term basis.

Excalibur estimates that

paid or share trades not being executed at the best price available. The SIB resisted calls to ban the practice, already common in America.

Rules set out in July attempted instead to cover abuses, including banning so-called "soft for net" arrangements that tied fund managers to market-makers. These could hardly pay the market-maker unless the fund lost the advantage of trading at the best prices in the market.

BZW, the biggest of the integrated broking/marketing firms, set up Thamessway, a separate soft commission broking offshoot, to avoid this abuse. Brokers have a duty under the Financial Services Act to secure the best prices for their clients.

But within days of the new SIB rules, Warburg Securities, the second biggest integrated house, heavily undercut prevailing soft commission rates and was swiftly followed by the other leading integrated houses apart from BZW. Under these deals, fund managers need pay soft commission equal to only 1.2 times the value of other services provided, instead of the prevailing 1.75 times.

This immediately led to the suspicion, especially among the soft commission brokers, that "soft for net" arrangements were being resurrected in another guise or that the broking deals were not eco-

nomic without the benefits of extra trading volume for the linked market-makers.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, started an enquiry to see whether cross subsidies were being offered, with the effect of undermining competition by shutting out independent brokers. Warburg has insisted throughout that its cost structure allowed it to offer this apparently cheap deal without losing money on its agency business. Fund managers queued to ask the SIB whether they could take these deals.

The SIB agonised. Mr Walker said he was philosophically opposed to interfering with market forces in detail, for instance by forcing integrated houses offering soft commissions to follow BZW's lead.

Yesterday, the SIB came out with its response, a "clarification" in the form of a consultative paper. This would essentially put the onus back on fund managers. Richard Britton, its international director, said: "SIB's message to the fund manager would be the same as its message to investors: if the deal looks too good to be true, then it probably is."

The SIB wants to add riders to its rules. These would oblige the fund manager to confirm that the soft commission broker is committed to deal at the best price and to use professional judgment on

whether that is feasible at the rate offered. If the fund manager does not have the resources to monitor the dealing performance, the only answer is to opt for a demonstrably independent broker.

Since the SIB admits it cannot tell whether a particular rate of commission is economic, however, this may not be too easy for the average fund manager, who also probably has a vested interest.

Nigel Johnson-Hill of Hoenig says he has no doubt that a commission multiple of 1.2 times is uneconomic. But Warburg, a highly respectable group, says firmly that it does not cross-subsidise its soft commission package and is confident that it executes deals at the best price.

Few fund managers are likely to admit to clients that they cannot monitor the performance of their brokers. Even company trustees of pension funds may not be neutral, since they often pay manager fees while commissions come from the fund.

Mr Britton admits, the proposal "are not necessarily our long-term position". Since the soft commission system is essentially a restraint of trade, and no-one seems to be bat-ting unequivocally for the saver, Sir Gordon Borrie may instead have the last word.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

Where next for the food barons?

COMMENT

million to build. Sooner rather than later, however, the rapid expansion of new selling space — the great engine of growth — must slow down as the supermarketisation of Britain runs out of new locations.

In common with the other supermarket giants, Sainsbury is going to have to think about diversification eventually. Among Britain's leading companies only Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyll are relatively undiversified. By comparison nearly every other top fifty company has a presence in overseas markets or in sectors complementary to its core activity. The single mindedness of Britain's food retailers is even more staggering when it is remembered that five of them account for more than 60 per cent of the British grocery market.

Sainsbury, which has been consistently ahead of the pack on almost every issue, including centralised distribution, scanning, own label and labour

relations, has a presence in the US through Shaws and in the UK DIY market with Homebase. But these businesses are tiny compared with the UK supermarket business and the group is unlikely to make a significant acquisition for some time. Increasingly, the City will focus on the overseas operations of Sainsbury, and wondering when and how Tesco will make its own inevitable move towards fresh fields abroad.

One of the many ironies of the end of the cold war is that the Soviet Union, our former enemy, will be regarded as a preferred future supplier with huge potential. The latest offer of seismic data and joint venture opportunities by Moscow are assured of a warm welcome in the West.

Meanwhile, the current outbreak of nerves in financial markets is probably overdone in the short run. Since Iraq occupied Kuwait in August, the fear which dominated spot oil markets was of shortages during the northern hemisphere winter when consumption is at its

highest. But thanks mainly to a successful response from Opec to make up the Kuwait shortfall, the worst of the winter now looks like passing uneventfully with supply and demand in balance.

For investors, the point to bear in mind is that once the Gulf problem is resolved, or even if there is a long term stalemate, the onset of spring next year will almost certainly bring a renewed weakness in oil prices and the sight of Opec meeting again with a view to defending its 1990 price target of \$21 a barrel.

Holders of Bensford stock are still anxiously awaiting a verdict on whether there will be a cash distribution to them after the sale of British Sugar. Unlike investors in British & Commonwealth or Polly Peck, they still have a tradable asset; but no-one wants to crystallise such a hefty loss.

The decision to repay shareholders some of their losses fortunately lies with the board for administrators have a record of looking after banks better than shareholders. Let's hope the company puts a premium on loyalty.

Oil nerves

Markets are growing increasingly nervous, especially in Japan, about an outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf and the further sharp rise in oil prices that will be the inevitable result. Even without some

No soft option for SIB

The lighter regime of City regulation championed by David Walker when he became the second chairman of the Securities & Investments Board is facing a tricky test over the obscurely technical issue of soft commissions for share trading. So far, the SIB's sensibilities are leading it into

paid or share trades not being executed at the best price available. The SIB resisted calls to ban the practice, already common in America.

Rules set out in July attempted instead to cover abuses, including banning so-called "soft for net" arrangements that tied fund managers to market-makers.

The idea of soft commission

is that, in return for guaranteeing trading commission to a broker, fund managers can use the proceeds of their £8.5 million rights issue to fund further expansion, at a time when they feel there are bargains to be had, and to reduce short-term borrowings.

Gearing stands at about 95 per cent, but should come down to 60 or 70 per cent by the year-end.

The issue price of the new shares at 45p compares with a previous closing price of 58p. The shares fell back to 51p on the news, giving an ex-rights price of 49p.

The company has a good record in acquisitions, it has bought 23 companies since 1987, including nine which were loss-making and have since been turned round.

Excalibur has also agreed to acquire Price & Orpian, an engineering company which makes components for the aerospace and vintage car markets, for £1.3 million. It looks like a good buy — considering that Price has net assets of £1.5 million, including £700,000 in cash and made pre-tax profits of £450,000 in the year to end-May, on sales of £1.7 million.

Excalibur estimates that pre-tax profits for the six months to end October will not be less than £2 million (£1.7 million). It intends to declare an interim dividend of 0.4p (0.3p), and forecasts total dividends of 1.8p (1.35p).

Analysts have upgraded forecasts to £5.7 million for the year, giving earnings on the enlarged capital of 8.3p per share and a p/e of 6.1. The rights look good on a longer-term basis.

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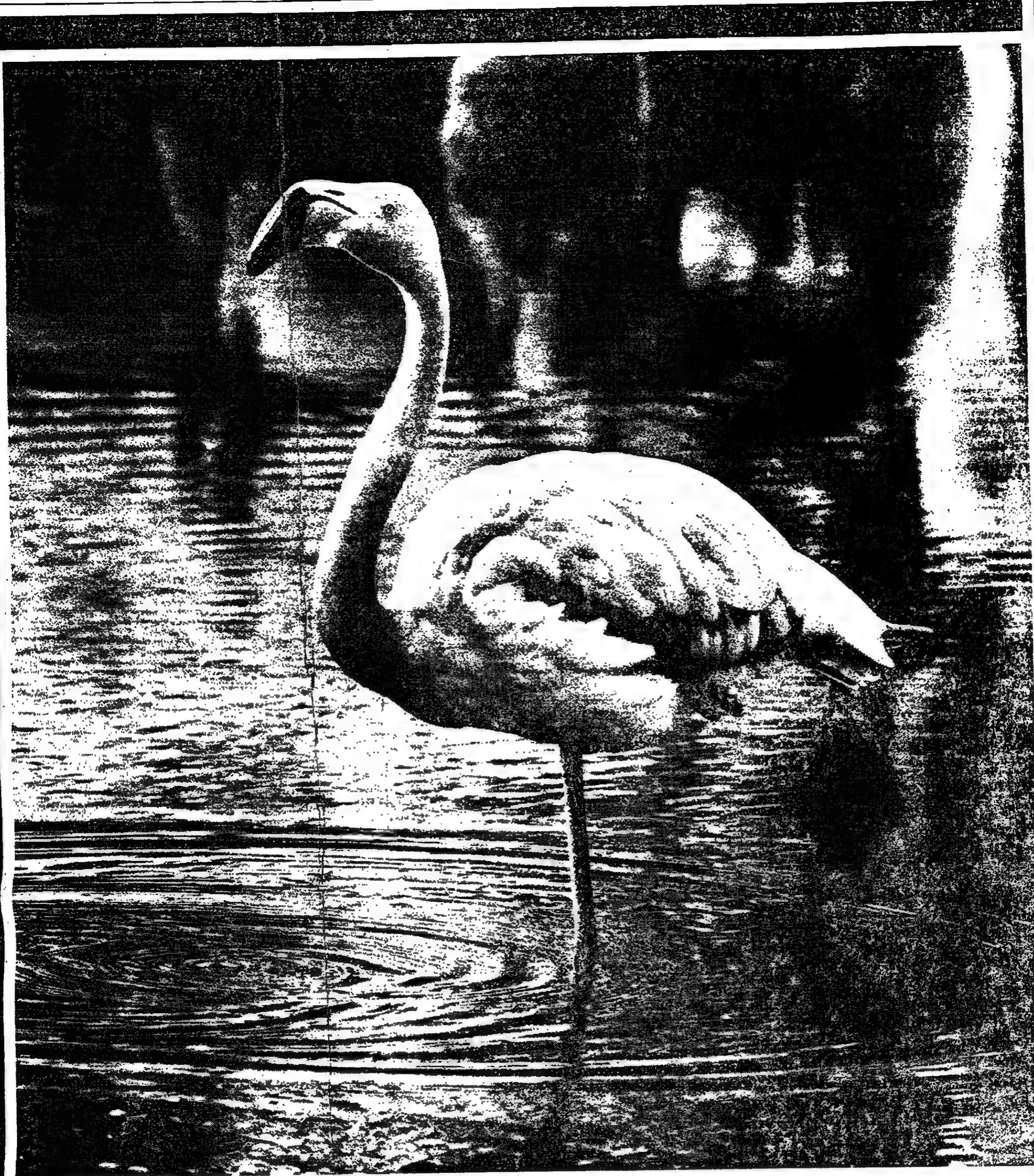
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WHAT DOES ANGLO AMERICAN SHARE WITH THE GREATER FLAMINGO?

Salt. And soda ash, an essential ingredient in the making of glass, steel and paper.

Both are found in abundance in the Sua Pan in north-east Botswana, home to vast breeding colonies of the Greater Flamingo.

And now home to an exciting new project that will bring prosperity, growth and development to the people of the area.

And provide a secure sanctuary for the Greater Flamingo.

The future of Southern Africa lies in partnership. Between people. Between private initiative and democratic governments. And between people and their environment.

Soda Ash Botswana, a £190 million project in a corner of the Sua Pan, meets all these criteria.

It is the fruit of a partnership between the Botswana government, AECI, De Beers and the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa. From 1991, under the technical leadership of AECI, it will begin to produce 300,000 tons of soda ash a year, making Southern Africa self-sufficient in this vital product.

But Soda Ash Botswana has not forgotten that Sua Pan is also the site of another, more ancient, partnership. For when the rains come these desert wastes provide a vital link in the life-cycle of Southern Africa's flamingo population.

And so Soda Ash Botswana buried

power lines which could be hazardous to birds in flight.

It appointed a former director of the Wildlife and Nature Parks of Botswana to monitor the project's environmental impact.

It established that by bringing brine to the surface the project may attract even more flamingos to its small corner of Sua Pan.

And it is creating a game sanctuary near the plant to ensure they will be safe.

It takes financial resources, expertise and foresight to invest in a partnership on this scale. Partnership that is the key to a better future for all Southern Africa.

Thinking ahead. Thinking big. As well as taking care of the detail. It's what we do. And what we do best.

AAC

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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SECRETARY TO
DIRECTOR OF SALES

Thames Television International

Thames Television International is a subsidiary of Thames Television Pic, and is the largest and most successful independent distributor in the UK, selling programmes annually to over 100 countries.

This role is a varied and demanding one, and you will need to be able to demonstrate a wide range of technical and personal skills together with proven experience at a similar level.

In addition to having fast and accurate shorthand you should be thoroughly conversant with Displaywrite 4 word processing. As well as the usual secretarial duties, you will be required to take accurate minutes, draft routine reports and handle a number of administrative jobs relating to the Sales Director's responsibilities.

You will be dealing with personnel at all levels both within the Thames group and externally, and therefore good social skills are important, as is the ability to maintain confidentiality. Clear communication and self-confidence, coupled with a calm and efficient manner will be valuable assets.

The salary will reflect the seniority of this position.

Please call our Personnel Department for an application form, on 071-387 9494 ext. 4101, which should be completed and returned by Wednesday 21 November 1990.

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THAMES. A TALENT FOR TELEVISION.

P.A./Secretary
Mayfair, London W1
£16,000

Working for the Managing Director, and providing confidential assistance to other members of the Board if required, this vacancy offers great variety and interest in one of London's renowned gumming companies.

First class secretarial skills and experience, an ability to communicate and work with a variety of people, initiative, and enthusiasm for field sports are requisites for the job.

Please apply in writing, including a C.V. and a daytime telephone contact number, before 16th November to Roger Mitchell, Managing Director, Holland & Holland Ltd., 33, Bruton Street, London W1X 8JS.

Please contact Corinne on 071-499-4411 with confirmation of receipt of Fax.

LEGAL PA TO SENIOR PARTNER
Salary: £16,000

Dynamic new firm of Specialist Solicitors needs Secretary/PA. Experience in the corporate and banking field would be a distinct advantage. Knowledge of VME CIS is essential. Must be literate & enthusiastic & enjoy working as part of a team. Applications in writing with CV to Caroline Holf, Lush St. Servs, 19 Bell Yard, London WC2A 5JN.

COMMUNITY CREME

CARE
BRITAIN

CARE Britain, the Third World Relief and Development Charity, send resume applications for the following positions.

Executive Secretary
The Executive Secretary will work to the National Director and should be enthusiastic, efficient and intelligent as well as supporting CARE's aims and objectives. The candidate will have strong secretarial skills including Word Processing (Wordperfect desirable) and excellent organisational ability.

The ideal person should have at least two years secretarial experience at a senior level and enjoy using his/her initiative in a challenging position.

Salary: £13,000.

Fundraising Assistant
We are looking for a bright and dynamic administrative/secretarial assistant for three very busy fundraisers.

Must have fast, accurate typing, a good telephone manner and very experience. This position would be most suited to candidates who enjoy using their initiative and working to deadlines, willing to attend and help organise events outside working hours. A desire to help and enjoy working in a team environment is also desirable. Previous administrative/secretarial experience essential.

Salary: £11,000.

Please apply to: Bland Grunley-Traynor, Personnel Officer, CARE Britain, Oldbury Street, 36-38 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HE. Tel. 071 393 5947.

CARE worldwide runs 200 community based projects in 40 developing countries focusing on health, conservation, small business development and emergency relief.

CARE Britain is an equal opportunities employer.

CARES' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is a national charity for people who care for relatives or friends with disabilities, long term illnesses or who are elderly and frail. We are seeking two committed secretaries for our head office in Paddington.

SECRETARY TO ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
Salary: £10,173 - £11,561 per annum plus £1722 London Weighting (Under review).

SECRETARY TO CARES ADVISER AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Salary: £9,600 - £11,241 per annum plus £1722 London Weighting (Under review).

Both postholders will need the ability to work well as part of a small busy team together with good organisational, word-processing and telephone skills. There will be good opportunities in both posts for working on your own initiative.

For further details and an application form please contact: CARES' National Association, 29 Chalcot Mews, London, NW1 3RG Tel: 071 223 8117.

Closing date for applications: FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1990.

Interviews for the Secretary to the CARES' National Development Officer will be held on Friday 11 December.

Interviews for the Secretary to Assistant Directors will be held in mid January.

We aim to be equal opportunities employers.

Computasoft

Computasoft is a busy young company specialising in software for the financial markets. Due to an expanding workload we are currently seeking two smart, enthusiastic young people.

Receptionist
Confident, person with good telephone manner. Duties will include switchboard, greeting clients and general admin. Previous reception experience an advantage.

Office administration
Bright young person needed. Varied duties will include ordering, relaying reception and general admin. Some word processing experience would be an advantage, but full training will be given.

Salary for both positions according to age and experience.
Please apply in writing to: Mrs. Corinne McEvoy, Computasoft Ltd, 150 Strand, London WC2R 1JP.

SECRETARY/PA
£14,000

Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Harley Street.
Secretary qualifications, Audio, Word Processing understanding and enjoyment of patient contact important.

Please send full CV to Mrs. Sue 9990.

MULTI-LINGUAL
OPPORTUNITIESFLUENT
GERMAN SALES
& APPLEMACE
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For Design Co. in beautiful Cheltenham. Excellent computer skills & experience essential. Lots of client contact & possibility of travel.

Salary: £11,000. Mrs. Mary at Kenmare Rec. Co. Tel: 071-3214 1666 for interview.

SUPER SECRETARIES

£18,000. Executive Secretary for a well known and successful law firm based in the City of London.

£14,000+. Young PA/Office Admin to work for Senior Partner in a major City law firm. Duties will include general office support, client liaison, and some external secretarial work.

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CRICKET

Gower lacks motivation in country mismatch

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
PORT PIRE

WHEN a team of international standing confronts utterly inept opposition, they can do no more than win impressively. A 111-run margin suggests England met this yardstick yesterday, but, in reality, this mismatch at Mermaid Park achieved precisely nothing.

The South Australia Country XI was no better, and certainly no more competitive, than a reasonable English club side. And yet, while the result was never remotely in question, England's batting fell somewhere between carelessness and patronising, with Graham Gooch and David Gower both squandering the opportunity to make their first substantial scores of the tour.

It mattered not a jot in the context of this fixture, which was a rare throwback to the kind of ambassadorial jaunt which has largely disappeared from modern tour schedules, but it was far from comforting to see our two senior players still patently out of sorts, with weightier engagements now imminent.

Gower, of course, has never been much of a one for games when the stakes resemble a beer match on the village green. Arguably, it was pointless to pick him. Reprehensible though some will find it, he simply cannot motivate himself for picnic cricket and his failure here, chipping a return catch after one distinctly silly stroke, was not even a surprise.

It was, however, an im-

mense disappointment for the 4,000 spectators who had greeted Gower with noisy enthusiasm. Small wonder. Port Pirie, 140 miles north of Adelaide, is earning something of a reluctant reputation over alleged lead pollution, but it is not a town which sees much in the way of quality sport.

The last time an English touring side played here was in 1970, when the MCC label was still worn outside Test matches. That practice ended in the mid-70s, but yesterday's scorecards, and local newspapers, announced the visitors as MCC. Word of Gooch's name has plainly not spread to these parts, either; at the official dinner, he was introduced first as Peter and then as David.

Ray Illingworth's 1970 team won by ten wickets here. The previous MCC visitors, in 1946, won by 400 runs. Gooch's side was not quite so emphatic after being put into bat on a pitch which offered enough to encourage all types of bowling.

The Country XI purveyed all types, too, from left-arm seam to leg-spin, and one English batsman who treated it with the right mixture of acquisitive irreverence was Wayne Larkins. Not a man to miss out when cheap runs are on offer, Larkins made the first century of the tour. He was dropped when on 50, but, before giving himself up, there was much to admire in the touch and fluency of his shots.

Larkins was a second notable victim for the leg-breaks of garage mechanic Simon

Fuchs, aged 20, who had already decorated the greatest day of his young career with the wicket of Gower. He was immediately to add that of Alec Stewart, who pushed his first ball straight back to the bowler and turned sharply on his heel as if remembering a more urgent appointment.

The collapses found England with no bobbles up and Smith might almost have been timed out before eventually padding away the hat-trick and offering his bat to the jovially jeering crowd.

Smith, at least, looks in bristlingly confident mood and there was an encouraging, though not entirely convincing, innings from John Morris. The impression left by England's batting, however, was one that is unlikely to check the growing air of complacency evident among Australians.

After an extended lunch break among the multi-coloured tents, it was stiflingly hot when England took the field, but both Bicknell and Fraser relished the conditions and bowled with far too much skill and imagination for some strictly-limited batting.

Bicknell, who may very well have a surprisingly important role to play in the Ashes series, dismissed both openers inside his first three overs and, at 50 for five, it seemed that the Country XI might be heading back to their day-jobs with only an embarrassing tale to tell.

Instead, a neat 57 from Chris Richards and some effective agricultural blows from John Robins secured a

which contained four sixes and 23 fours, was his 27th century for South Australia, a record. Neither Peter Taylor nor Trevor Hobbs, whom Hobbs hit for 22 in an over, could make any impression with their spin.

New South Wales began their defence of the Shield in style, beating Tasmania by an innings and 20 runs at Sydney. They totalled 489 for nine declared, Steve Waugh scoring 83 and Mark Taylor 183, his fourth successive first-class century in Australia, all of them on his home ground.

New South Wales have re-

jected proposals to use a yellow ball, which they say, "is both invisible" in trials. The ball was to have been used in a Shield match played under floodlights at Perth in December.

Bengal, the Ranji Trophy champions, escaped with a draw in the Irani Cup match in Bangalore, after following on 475 behind the Rest of India. The Rest amassed 737 for seven declared, both Pravin Asare and Ravi Shastri, who scored 187 against England at the Oval in August, compiling double-centuries. They put on 327 for the fourth wicket.

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did not get another opportunity to bat.

Queensland, who enforced the follow-on, confirmed the suspicion that they may not have enough depth in bowling to win the Shield. Having dismissed South Australia the first time for 130, McDermott and Rackemann taking eight wickets between them, they failed on the last day to bowl out their opponents again.

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The political confusion behind title challenge

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE history of karate has been so riven by disputes between rival sets that sometimes the object of the devotion has been obscured. From tomorrow until Sunday, the British team will be attempting to win the world title in Mexico for the fifth successive time. Its success is even more remarkable because the squad is not truly representative of the strength of British karate.

More than 50,000 of nearly 126,000 registered participants in the United Kingdom do not belong to the governing body, which picked and sent the team to Mexico. Hopefully, this is changing because the two rival governing bodies, the English Karate Council (EKC), which sent the team to the world championships, and the English Karate Board (EKB), have agreed to establish, from January, a new organisation called English Karate.

For three years, since the Sports Council enquiry, led by Sir Walter Winterbottom, grant aid has been sharply restricted to all the martial arts, but, particularly, to karate. In 1982-3, £49,000 was given to the Martial Arts Commission (MAC), which encompasses all the oriental activities, including karate; this year, just £25,000 was provided for administrative payment.

Indeed, only £8,500 was given to the British team to go to Mexico with the governing bodies and the competitors themselves making up the shortfall. The financial blow to karate in England comes as a direct result of the dissatisfaction of the Sports Council with the administration of karate in Britain. In future, the individual martial arts with more than 5,000 registered participants will be able to get money directly from the Council and MAC will act as a liaison and advisory body, a watchdog

strengthened by independent observers.

The Winterbottom report disclosed evidence of vote rigging in the EKC, a constituent member of MAC. Although MAC disputed the report's findings, the Sports Council accepted the recommendations that further efforts should be made to establish one overall body. After lengthy negotiations, this has now been achieved. Although everyone is publicly optimistic about the future of the one body, privately there are reservations.

The politics of Oriental martial arts and karate, in particular, are intricate. Indeed, the bitterness between some of the individuals rivals the fighting spirit necessary for success in many of the martial arts.

Both the EKC and EKB are only umbrella bodies, representing 48 organisations, which in turn are sometimes conglomerates of a number of even smaller associations. Thus the Karate Union of Great Britain (KUGB) has nearly 20,000 registered members; others have only a few hundred.

There are scores of different schools and styles of karate, and there is nothing to stop anyone from donning a black belt and setting up as an instructor with his own style and teaching for money.

THE ORIENTAL MARTIAL ARTS

AKIDO: Literally "way of harmonious spirit". Aikido is a Japanese system of unarmed combat invented in the 1920s which requires immense technical precision with an emphasis on wrist and arm locks. 6,500 registered participants in Britain.

KENDO: Literally "the way of the sword". Kendo is the traditional Japanese style of sword-fighting. Bamboo staves are used in practice, but the real swords are still sometimes employed for demonstrations. About 760 licensed practitioners.

KUNG-FU: A Chinese term meaning, literally, "well done". Kung-fu encompasses many associated martial arts, including the 1000 licensed participants.

KARATE: Literally "empty-handed". Introduced to Japan from

Okinawa in 1922, karate is a system of defence and counter-attack using hands and feet, and has scores of different styles and schools. About 126,000 registered participants in Britain.

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TAI-KWON-DO: Literally "hand foot way". This Korean martial art has many similarities to Karate and puts a particular emphasis on spectacular jumping kicks. Now an international demonstration sport, 16,500 licensed participants.

THAI BOXING: Combatives are allowed to punch, kick, knee or elbow each other in bouts staged in a ring similar to boxing. Lighter gloves and anklets are worn. In Thailand, the fight takes place while music is played on a lava pipe, cymbals and drums. 650 participants.

derived from the Shaolin temple boxing traditions. More than 5,000 licensed practitioners.

TAE-KWON-DO: Literally "hand foot way". This Korean martial art has many similarities to Karate and puts a particular emphasis on spectacular jumping kicks. Now an international demonstration sport, 16,500 licensed participants.

WUKO: Combatives are allowed to punch, kick, knee or elbow each other in bouts staged in a ring similar to boxing. Lighter gloves and anklets are worn. In Thailand, the fight takes place while music is played on a lava pipe, cymbals and drums. 650 participants.

in 1982, karate is a system of defence and counter-attack using hands and feet, and has scores of different styles and schools. About 126,000 registered participants in Britain.

KENDO: Literally "the way of the sword". Kendo is the traditional Japanese style of sword-fighting. Bamboo staves are used in practice, but the real swords are still sometimes employed for demonstrations. About 760 licensed practitioners.

KUNG-FU: A Chinese term meaning, literally, "well done". Kung-fu encompasses many associated martial arts, including the 1000 licensed participants.

Three goals in the closing ten minutes of a replay complete a remarkable turnaround in the Rumbelows Cup third round

Chelsea climb back from the brink to put out Portsmouth

By LOUISE TAYLOR

CHELSEA can rarely have pulled off a greater escape than the one they engineered at Fratton Park on Tuesday night. Trailing by two goals, scored by Mark Chamberlain and Guy Whittingham, with ten minutes remaining of their Rumbelows Cup third-round replay, they were tottering on the edge of another defeat against unkindly opposition of the type which has littered their recent history in knockout competitions.

Yet, with Portsmouth ready to celebrate, Chelsea staged a revival. Goals from David Lee, Dennis Wise, from the penalty spot, and, in the last minute, Kevin Wilson turned the game on its head, and left Portsmouth, who had been for so long the better team, stunned and without time to recover from a 3-2 deficit. Chelsea again face second division opponents in the next round, when they are away to Oxford United.

Sheffield Wednesday swag- gered their way into the fourth round thanks to a stylish win against Swindon Town at the

County Ground. Pearson's headed goal from Sheridan's tenth-minute free kick guaranteed Ron Atkinson's team a home date with Derby County at the end of the month, leaving their hosts to concentrate on reviving waning second division fortunes.

Swindon had not won in their past six matches, a decline precipitated partly by injuries and partly by off-the-field troubles. Before Tues- day's kick-off, Osvaldo Ardiles, the Swindon manager, said that "soul-searching" talks with his players had "identified the problem, al- though I am not prepared to say what it is".

Back on the pitch, Swindon soon discovered that Wednesday, for whom John Harkes, the United States international right back, was outstanding, posed a new set of difficulties.

However, Swindon, for whom Alan McLoughlin looks to be recovering something approaching his best form following injury, suggested that at least their spirit is

restored to full health by responding in positive fashion — Harkes having to clear off the line from Shearer in the final minutes.

Exhibiting delightful close control, Wednesday were clearly the better of two attractive teams but, as Atkinson, their manager, said: "We had to dig a few inches in the final 20 minutes."

Ardiles said: "I was pleased with the players' attitude. The only problem now is confidence, and injuries, and I am sure there are better times ahead."

Middlesbrough are another of the second division's more watchable teams, and they bolstered their promotion prospects with a 1-0 League win at West Bromwich Albion. Slaven's 88th-minute goal, from Ripley's cross, again raises question marks over the head of Brian Talbot, the manager at the Hawthorns.

In contrast, Middlesbrough, for whom Pears, the goalkeeper, saved well from Robson and West, have won their last four matches.

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Touchline ban is to continue

THE defenders, Alain Geiger and Marc Hottiger, have been recalled to the Switzerland squad for the European championship group two qualifying game away to San Marino next week.

Both missed Switzerland's 2-1 defeat by Scotland last month due to injury. Central defender Terry Egli is serving a two-match ban after being sent off in the closing minutes against Scotland.

The Switzerland coach, Uli Stielike, has been barred from the trainer's bench for three matches for repeatedly protesting against the referee's decisions during the game at Hampden Park.

A Uefa spokesman said yesterday that the ban would remain in force pending an appeal hearing on November 22.

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Hearts too timid to capitalise on first-leg lead

From CLIVE WHITE
IN BOLOGNA

Bologna..... 3
Heart of Midlothian..... 0

(Bologna win 4-3 on aggregate)

JUST AS one had suspected a fortnight ago, the away goal, needlessly conceded in the first leg, proved to be the undoing of Heart of Midlothian in this Uefa Cup second round tie yesterday. The Scots were already a beaten side, looking in vain for the salvation of an away goal themselves, when Bologna scored a superfluous third goal through Pietro Mariani with five minutes remaining.

Hearts were not far off from surviving here when they fell victim in the 74th minute to that crucial second goal, achieved by a deflection from Renato Villa to the second telling strike of the game from Lajos Detari. But Hearts did not deserve to last another round in this competition; they had clearly already reached the limit of their realistic ambitions.

Their domestic ineptitude, which hitherto they had successfully divorced from their European activities, consumed them here. They were timid, introverted and undisciplined, almost everything they were not when establishing what, irrespective of the away goal, was still a decent lead.

Bologna, strengthened and boosted mentally by the return of Detari and Cabrini, were more accomplished than they were in Edinburgh yet still hardly good enough themselves to contemplate much further progress in this competition. The crowd of 12,224,

a wholly inappropriate number in such a splendid stadium as the Renato Dall'Ara, was no more than the match deserved on a brilliantly sunny, crisp afternoon here.

The Italian crowd were hardly warmed either by the efforts of their team in the opening 15 minutes when two shots which should of finished in the back of the Hearts net were instead put wide of the target by Detari and Notariestefano, acting on well judged passes from one another. But the tone of the match was set, erratic Bologna pressure met by fitful resistance from Hearts.

The Scots lacked either the initiative or the ability to break the pattern and adopt a better suited attacking policy, carelessly conceding possession time after time with long vague punts up field.

Hearts, hanging on by their finger-nails in the first half, had manoeuvred themselves on to their finger tips midway through the second half when the Italians suddenly broke through with a goal. Hearts cleared a corner only as far as Detari and he made room for a shot which may or may not have gained from Villa's deflection. Either way, "Mutu", as he is known, had turned the possibility of victory into reality.

BOLOGNA: N Cusin, R Biondo, A Cabrini, M Bonai, R Thos, R Villa, P Mariani, R E Verga, F Campano (sub: F Pelli), L Detari (sub: G Mariani), E Notariestefano, Lajos Detari, D Van Geerten (Netherlands).

SCOTLAND: M McPherson, H Christie, G Mackay, D McCorist, C Lovell, D Kirkwood, D McPherson, J Colquhoun, N Berry, J Robertson, J Ferguson, E Barron (sub: A McLean).

Referee: D Van Geerten (Netherlands).

• One of several disappointed Scotsmen was Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, who had come over to watch the match in the hope of seeing Nikolai Iliev, the Bologna central defender, who will be playing next week for Bulgaria against the Scots in a European championship qualifier. But Iliev who is in the process of joining Leeds United, was left out of the team.

But with luck, McPherson's defiance and some inspired shot-stopping by Smith, attempting to make amends for the first-leg goal conceded as a result of his time wasting, Hearts clung on to their slender overall advantage. Twice Smith clawed down shots from Verga and Pelli before saving instinctively at

Concern over Villa support

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RENE Eberle, the head of Uefa's disciplinary committee, has expressed his concern over Aston Villa's decision to release supporters unsupervised in Milan before last night's Uefa Cup second round second leg tie against Internazionale.

Eberle, the man who controls the destiny of English clubs in European competition, said last night: "If I had been in charge at Villa, I would have advised my supporters to stay at home, knowing the risk involved with a match in Italy. That is my personal opinion."

"But instead, the club have run an extra risk by bringing the supporters into Milan so long before the match. To me, it

looks a problem and I don't feel at ease about it."

Approximately 1,600 Villa supporters were free to roam Milan and drink as much alcohol as they pleased before congregating at a special rendezvous an hour before kick-off to collect their tickets from Villa club officials. Some supporters arrived in Milan on Tuesday night, but most came in yesterday lunchtime.

Eberle added: "I considered it my duty to contact Aston Villa to find out why they are doing this. They should be aware of the potential for danger. If they run into problems, they will have to accept the consequences."

Eberle refused to say what those consequences would be, but it is clear that Villa's

hazardous approach has done nothing to consolidate the position of English clubs in European competition.

Eberle said: "I must say that if you English cannot participate in our competition peacefully and without problems, you should stay at home."

Steve Stride, the Aston Villa secretary was unavailable to take Eberle's call directly, but countered: "We cannot treat our fans like animals. We have out-duty police officers as stewards on the coaches going to Milan and more officers among the fans who will not be recognisable as police."

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Eberle said: "If travel companies are helping so called supporters to get to Milan without tickets this borders on a criminal offence in my opinion. But what can we do to stop them?"

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